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Job security assured for Middle East-bound cops. PAGE 2
Two Tinian casino plans moving forward. PAGE 3

CUC overhaul costs: $11M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The cost of rehabilitating the engines at power plants in Lower Base is now reaching over $11 million, including the $6.7 million spent in 2001 and 2002.

On top of the $11 million, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is also obligated to pay a $5.1 million contract with current contractor, DCM Inc.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said that, of the $6.5 million the Office of Insular Affairs recently gave the CNMI for engine rehabilitation,

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RELATED NEWS

- 'CUC's new system avoids unexpected outages' **PAGE 2**
- New load shedding schedule. **PAGE 4**

PUBLIC HEARING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of business, nonresidents and local community members listen to the speakers during the public hearing on House Bill 16-86, "The Resident Foreign National Act of 2008," which proposes to establish a new five-year entry permit category within the Commonwealth immigration code at the House chamber on Capital Hill yesterday.

CUC-Telesource meeting today on Tinian plant debts

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Commonwealth Utility Corp. is preparing to meet today with the operator of Tinian's power plant, Telesource CNMI Inc., after the company

See TELESOURCE on Page 4

CPA emergency state is extended

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Fitial

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will remain under a state of disaster emergency for another 30 days.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has renewed the emergency declaration, saying there is no function-

See CPA on Page 4

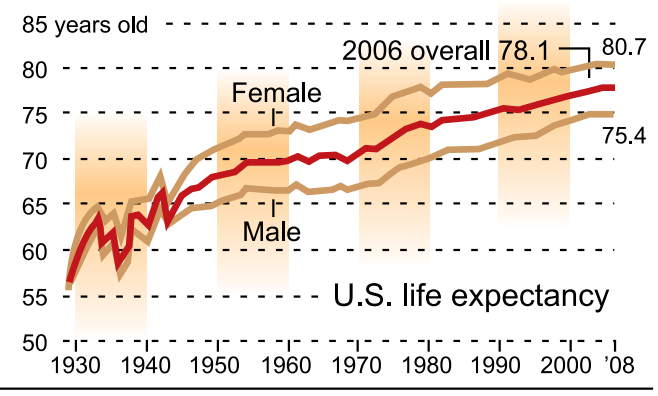
US life expectancy passes 78

ATLANTA (AP)—For the first time, U.S. life expectancy has surpassed 78 years, the government reported Wednesday, although the United States continues to lag behind

See US on Page 4

Living longer

The U.S. life expectancy has surpassed 78 years for the first time, according to a government report.



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention AP

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the credibility of CUC's explanation for its power rate increases, 1 being equivalent to "highly questionable" and 10 equivalent to "totally credible"?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Severe Weather
A tornado tore through a Boy Scout camp in Iowa, killing at least four people.
NATION...Page 22

Deposed King
Nepal's deposed king gave up his crown on Wednesday and left his palace forever.
ASIA...Page 24

Fiesta Filipino
The Saipan Grand Hotel and Fiesta Resort and Spa teamed up to organize the first Fiesta Filipino and Sagala 2008 event.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 29

Local

Job security assured for Middle East-bound cops

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio K. Norita has assured the job security of 32 DPS personnel who have been called up for deployment next month to the Middle East.

In his directive to DPS division commanders and supervisors, Norita said the job, rank, salary, and department assignment of the troop members are secured and will be waiting for them when they return.

The commissioner asked the commanders and supervisors to extend full cooperation and assistance to the troops who will be deployed by July 15.

"Please work closely with you reservist personnel and coordinate their needs to take leave or comp-time to get their personal life in order before deployment," said Norita in his directive.

He said some of the personnel are going on their second deployment and that the DPS management understands the necessity for them to spend time with their family and friends before the departure date.

"At the same time, I want to emphasize the importance of our personnel to start carrying light assignments while they prepare for deployment," Norita said.

The commissioner directed the DPS timekeeper to assist the troops in ensuring that they exhaust their military and annual leave and comp-time before switching their status to leave without pay.

He reminded the timekeeper that the personnel are granted a certain amount of military leave per calendar year and that they are properly credited while they are away.

DPS is expected to incur more overtime fees with the eventual deployment of its 32 police officers and firefighters.

Norita earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the departure of the personnel means that the department's overtime costs will increase between July and August 2008 as the remaining personnel cover the officers that are gone.

'CUC's new system avoids unexpected outages'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is implementing a new operational system in order to avoid unexpected outages on Saipan.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said that under the "safe load operational matrix" system, they have been able to prevent unexpected blackouts.

Muna said when he came aboard CUC, the operational policy was basically to ensure there would be no outages—period.

"But we're finding out that in doing so, every couple of days after having no outages, we have an outage because something would automatically trip with the engine," the official told the media.

Muna said they revisited that policy and took the excessive load off the power engines, operating them to a point where they are not pushing the engines as much.

See SYSTEM on Page 4

'Focus on monument proposal, not on Pew'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has urged the people of the Commonwealth to look at the merits of the marine monument proposal, instead of focusing on the group behind the plan.

Tenorio's statement comes after opponents of the Pew Charitable Trusts' proposal publicly asked him to sign a petition against a White House declaration of a marine monument in the Northern Islands.

"If the opponents of the Pew's proposal want me to sign the petition which states that I will not negotiate with Pew, I will gladly sign it. On the other hand, I cannot in good and clear conscience sign a petition that permanently closes the door on a cooperative venture that will promote conservation and economic development in joint cooperation with our federal government," said Tenorio, who represents the Commonwealth in Washington, D.C.

"We as a people must decide how to protect our resources and what economic benefit we can derive from those resources. We need to stop focusing on Pew and seriously start talking among ourselves about what resources we have and how best to economically utilize as well as protect them for us now living and for future generations," he said.

Tenorio suggested that people may be overestimating Pew's role in having President Bush designate a marine monument in the islands of Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion.

He said he had met with staff of the President's Council on Environmental Quality and he had been assured that Bush would only create a national monument in the CNMI if the

See FOCUS on Page 4

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHRISTIONICA A. TAISACAN, CHRISTAL A. TAISACAN, BERNEILA A. TAISACAN, NEIL A. TAISACAN JR., JULVONNIE A. TAISACAN (Minor Children)	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0384
NEIL TAISACAN AND BERTHA TAISACAN, VINCENT CABRERA Plaintiffs, -v- WORLD CORPORATION dba SAIPAN WORLD RESORT, and OK-JOO JUN LIZAMA Defendants.	)	SUMMONS

TO: KAP SHIN CHUN

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the First Amended Complaint being filed against you, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the TORRES BROTHERS, LLC., Attorney at Law, whose address is stated above, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in the House of Justice - Guma Hustisia Imwal Aweewe. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with the Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THIS COURT.

Dated this 1 day Nov., 2007.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Two Tinian casino plans moving forward

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Stefan_Sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Plans for two new multimillion dollar casino resorts on Tinian have begun moving forward in recent weeks, with crews beginning the first phase of construction for one while architects and engineers survey the site of the second to draft its design.

At the site of the Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums, a plan by the Bridge Investment Group, workers are now laying the groundwork for full scale construction, according to Phillip Mediola-Long, CNMI vice president of operations.

Meanwhile, the Marianas Resort Development Co. has seen some early progress in building a turtle-shaped resort with a casino and golf course on the island.

In addition to building new staff housing, crews with the Oceanview project have begun an initiative to control erosion on the 75,000 square meter property ahead of the full construction effort, while also building a leeching field for a septic tank.

"Before I can bring over the workers, I need to build the infrastructure in order to house and have them there that's the phase we're in now," Mediola-Long said, adding the company has already won approval from local environmental regulators for some key aspects of the plan.

The 301-room hotel and casino will include 268 condominium rooms. Bridge Investment has previously said it hopes to break ground on the project, estimated to cost between $40 and $60 million, sometime later this month.

Getting the necessary workers for the project has required a major undertaking, Mediola-Long added. The company had to work closely with local labor and immigration officials to have applications for foreign laborers processed before the federalized cap on the number of alien workers allowed in the Commonwealth is put in place.

Currently, there are only nine foreign workers and five locals on the hotel's construction crew, though more may come later, he said. The number of local workers there now is much higher, however, because the company has hired a local security firm with 10 staff.

By December 2009, the hotel hopes to begin a hiring drive that could result in as many as 600 new jobs for the Commonwealth, he said.

"Actually, we don't think this area can absorb" the number of new jobs the hotel will create, he said, noting the company may have to seek job applicants on Guam. Bridge Investment wants "to do everything they can to hire locally and indigenously because they don't want to increase the cost of housing, transportation and contract processing," he said. Yet he acknowledged that it might ultimately be necessary to hire staff from outside the Commonwealth.

And at the site of the MRDC project, attorney and former superior court judge Edward Manibusan, who is involved in planning the hotel, says the company recently signed a management contract with a company that will be reviewing the details of an environmental impact statement and other issues.

"There has been slow progress, but progress nonetheless," Manibusan said, adding that architects and engineers were recently on Tinian to evaluate the project. "We're hoping to break ground as soon as we can."

The MRDC hotel is estimated to cost between $200 to $300 million, he said.

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OPA intern plans to complete accounting degree in Arizona

Porsha Dale Dela Cruz recently completed her volunteer internship with the Office of the Public Auditor. Dela Cruz served as an Audit Intern with OPA from May to June 2008. She is studying accounting at the Northern Marianas College and will soon continue her studies at the University of Phoenix, Arizona.

The internship was a "great introduction to real life accounting that allowed me to apply what I learned in school," Dela Cruz said.

Public Auditor Michael Sablan said that, "Porsha was an exceptional intern; we wish she could stay with OPA longer. We wish her well as she continues her education in the states and we hope that she returns to the CNMI when she is done."

Dela Cruz is the daughter of Dimis and Ann Marie Dela Cruz and a 2006 graduate of Kagman High School. ***(OPA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Porsha Dale Dela Cruz, third from right, poses with Public Auditor Michael Sablan and staff of the Office of the Public Auditor.

US

From Page 1

about 30 other countries in estimated life span.

The increase is due mainly to falling mortality rates in almost all the leading causes of death, federal health officials said. The average life expectancy for babies born in 2006 was about four months greater than for children born in 2005.

Japan has the longest life expectancy—83 years for children born in 2006, according to World Health Organization data. Switzerland and Australia were also near the top of the list.

"The international comparisons are not that appealing, but we may be in the process of catching up," said Samuel Preston, a University of Pennsylvania demographer. He is co-chairman of a National Research Council panel looking at why America's life expectancy is lower than other nations'.

The new U.S. data, released Wednesday, come from the National Center for Health Statistics. It's a preliminary report of 2006 numbers, based on data from more than 95 percent of the death certificates collected that year.

Life expectancy is the period a child born in 2006 is expected to live, assuming mortality trends stay constant.

The 2006 increase is due mainly to falling mortality rates for nine of the 15 leading causes of death, including heart disease, cancer, accidents and diabetes.

"I think the most surprising thing is that we had declines in just about every major cause of death," said Robert Anderson, who oversaw work on the report for the health statistics center.

The overall death rate fell from 799 per 100,000 in 2005 to about 776 the following year.

Health statisticians noted declines of more than 6 percent in stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease (including bronchitis and emphysema), and a drop of more than 5 percent in heart disease and diabetes deaths. Indeed, the drop in diabetes deaths was steep enough to allow Alzheimer's disease—which held about steady—to pass diabetes to become the nation's sixth leading cause of death.

The U.S. infant mortality rate dropped more than 2 percent, to 6.7 infant deaths per 1,000 births, from 6.9.

Perhaps the most influential factor in the 2006 success story, however, was the flu. Flu and pneumonia deaths dropped by 13 percent from 2005, reflecting a mild flu season in 2006, Anderson said.

FOCUS

From Page 2

people of the Commonwealth asked him.

"Pew's proposal is an independent initiative and not authorized by the White House. While they possess experts and advisors to advance their interest, they have no say nor authority over our resources, or how our resources should be managed," he said.

He added that Pew itself is simply proposing to gather relevant resource information—a "necessarily proactive" move since it provides an opportunity to gauge public opinion, among other things.

"To me, Pew's initiative is neither a starting point, nor an ending point. It is simply an idea, just like the idea of a Micronesian Challenge being promoted to the CNMI as another alternative to resource protection and conservation," Tenorio said.

"When I stated that we should begin a dialog with the federal government, I did not mean that Pew would be sitting at the table with us, or that their proposal would be what was to be discussed. I want to emphasize that the CNMI direct its energy to either oppose Pew's proposal by informing the President's office officially, or to commence a dialogue with the federal government if it wants to, rather than to worry about Pew's freedom to exercise its rights as a non-profit, non-governmental organization," he added.

CPA

From Page 1

ing board of directors to run the ports authority.

At the governor's request, the CPA board members resigned almost three weeks ago. The administration has not named any new appointees to replace the board members.

"[The] resignation of all members of the board of directors of the CPA has resulted in an ongoing vacuum of leadership at the CPA," Fitial said in his latest executive order on the ports authority.

"Lack of appropriate leadership brought the CPA to the brink of technical default on the March 1, 1998 indenture. Until strong and appropriate leadership is restored to the CPA board of directors the danger of technical default on the March 1, 1998 indenture will remain a significant risk to the CPA and the CNMI as a whole," he added.

CPA was on the verge of technical default on its airport revenue bond when the governor took control of the ports authority last month. CPA's bond consultants had recommended measures to prevent the default, but the board of directors failed to implement them.

On May 13, 2008, the governor issued an executive order placing the financially trouble ports authority under his direct control for 120 days. He also signed a separate order declaring CPA under a state of emergency for an initial 30 days.

The Legislature has overturned the reorganization order, but emergency declaration has kept CPA under the Governor's Office.

In the past 30 days, the governor has taken some of the steps recommended by CPA's bond consultants. These include raising airport rates, ending the incentive program for airlines flying to the Northern Marianas, and imposing cost-cutting measures at CPA.

Fitial said additional steps have to be taken to avoid technical default.

Under the indenture agreement, if CPA committed a technical default, the bank could force the ports authority to repay the debt immediately, or take over CPA.

A CPA technical default could also have a cumulative impact on the CNMI economy, the governor said.

TELESOURCE

From Page 1

on Thursday blasted CUC management for failing to pay debts and supply the plant with fuel, saying it has only enough fuel to power the island for four days.

Last week, CUC executive director Antonio Muna told the *Saipan Tribune* that the utility was prepared to pay the $375,000 needed to provide the Tinian power plant with the fuel it requires to stay in operation. Yet in a statement issued Thursday, Telesource management said, contrary to Muna's claims, the company has not yet received the payment and has only four days worth of fuel left.

"[I]f CUC does not replenish the tanks very soon, the power plant will have to be shut down," Telesource said, adding that unless the debt is paid soon, the company will no longer have the funds to buy spare parts or lubrication oil.

In an interview Thursday, Muna responded that the fuel would be delivered that night, adding that CUC purchased the fuel from Mobil on Wednesday. Problems with a delivery tanker prevented the fuel from reaching Tinian earlier on Thursday, he said.

Muna further answered the charge in Telesource's statement that CUC has yet to pay the company for the month of May on a series of $180,000 promissory notes, saying that CUC on June 9 provided part of that monthly payment but still faces some outstanding fees.

Telesource and CUC are set to meet and discuss the debts today, he added.

Nevertheless, Telesource's statement says the company still has yet to see the payment. This breach of contract, according to a strongly worded letter from Commonwealth Sens. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Henry San Nicolas (C-Tinian) last week, has already resulted in denial of service for some customers.

The reason CUC has seen problems paying these debts, Muna said last week, is the utility's dire financial situation. Telesource's statement appears to recognize these problems, but stresses that CUC's debts are nonetheless hindering the Tinian power plant's operation.

"There is no doubt that CUC has pressing issues and it is in everyone's best interest to support CUC management in their effort to get the utility under control," it says. "However, Telesource is no longer capable of borrowing or allocating funds to support its Tinian operation because of nonpayment by CUC."

SYSTEM

From Page 2

He cited engine no. 2 at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base which used to carry a six-megawatt load but now it is at five megawatts. For engine no. 3 at Power Plant 1, it used to carry a six-megawatt load, but now it's only at five.

Before this, engines would overheat and just shutdown, said Muna.

"So we are trying to do our best to control that particular event and not have surprise outages anymore," he said.

The executive director said the current rolling outages schedule that they are implementing affects only certain feeders on the island and not the whole grid.

The current June 6 to 13 load shedding schedule is at two-hour intervals, starting from 8am to 10pm.

On the other hand, Muna said they are also scheduling more of their maintenance work in the evening hours.

"We're putting in a midnight to 8 o'clock shift so we can shut down the engines during off-peak and implement a maintenance effort in those early morning hours," he said.

He said from midnight to 8am they have a maintenance shift that will allow them to take a look at the engines in that period.

"From 12 midnight to 8am we are off-peak. We don't need as much power. People are asleep. So the power demand is something that we can meet even if we take an engine off," Muna added.

He said by next week CUC may implement a different load shedding schedule.

CUC

From Page 1

CUC already spent $4,709,108.

"Essentially we only have $1.2 million left of the initial $6.5 million," Muna told the media.

Under the current rehabilitation effort, CUC was targeting seven power engines, but most of the money spent was enough for only two engines.

Muna said CUC also has a $5.1 million contract with DCM Inc. to rehabilitate seven of the eight engines at Power Plant 1. He said this is why they are asking OIA to provide them an additional $3.8 million to help defray the $5.1 million cost.

CUC reportedly paid $800,000 to another contractor, CISCO, which was tasked to rehabilitate Power Plant 2. CUC has since suspended rehabilitation work at that power plant.

In CUC's report to visiting OIA officials last Tuesday, Muna said the cost of overhauls performed in 2001 to 2002 is testimony to the anticipated funding requirements.

"Most of the problems in the engines are known only when they are dismantled and inspected since all of the units without exception have exceeded their maintenance schedule, resulting in more damage to parts that may not be recovered under typical overhauls," CUC said.

Parts delivery, CUC said, is seriously impacted since most of the parts are not available as ex-stock parts and have to be manufactured.

"The lead time for the delivery is known only when a contract is executed with funding available and often the process involves advance payment for them to start the manufacturing," CUC added.

NEWLOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

The following is the new load shedding schedule for June 14 through June 20, 2008, issued by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday.

8am -10am	**Feeder-2: Second Partial** Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church south to San Jose intersection
10:am -12pm	**Feeder-3: Third Partial** Gualo Rai Intersection south to Chalan Pale Arnold and Chalan Mosignor Guererro Rd. intersection
12pm -2pm	**Kiya 1: Second Partial** CPA /Airport, Portions of Koblerville, As Perdido
2pm -4pm	**Kiya-4: Second Partial** Mount Carmel and south to Portions of Chalan Kanoa
4pm -6pm	**Feeder-7: Entire Grid** Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.
6pm - 8pm	**Feeder-4: Second Partial** Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)
8pm -10pm	**Kiya-2: Second Partial** Portions of Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

Water and wastewater services will also be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages. CUC will make all efforts to keep to this schedule. Such schedule may be modified in future public notices. In addition, please be informed that such schedule may be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary.

Demapan is named acting COE

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education has selected Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia T. Demapan as the Public School System's acting education commissioner for at least the month of June 2008.

The BOE has decided that the role of acting education commissioner will be on a rotation basis until the board finds a new education commissioner.

According to BOE chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita, it is the board's goal to have a new commissioner in place before the school year opens in September.

The acting commissioner position has left several PSS employees wondering how long it would take for the board to find a new replacement, citing that the system cannot afford to have its employees in acting capacities for a long time when they have their original positions to attend to.

David Lone of the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Services advised that the board should not take forever to find the new education commissioner.

In Demapan's case, "I'm sure her school is having a hard time with her not being over there because she's busy over here as the acting commissioner. All I'm saying is, don't let it take forever to find a new commissioner, let people do their jobs," Lone said.

Demapan shared that she has taken on the role as the acting COE because she wanted to explore the duties of the commissioner.

"I know I am very busy myself but it's a test. And of course, if you ask me 'Do you want to be a commissioner?' No I do not. Not at this time. I have too much on my plate. But I am really here to make sure that the flow of things continue," Demapan said.

Since taking on the mantle of acting commissioner, Demapan said she's already encountered a couple of employees coming in angry because they have not gotten various documents signed. "And that's one of the issues that is happening right now."

During yesterday's special board meeting, several people were still wondering what the big secret was behind the BOE's request for Borja's resignation.

"Under the Open Government Act, personnel matters relating to discussions about personnel's performance, etc., are exempt from public discussion; thus, I cannot disclose these deliberations which took place in executive session so as to protect the privacy of the former employee," Blanco-Maratita said.

Injured passenger in CK smashup files suit

A passenger of a car who was injured in a vehicular accident in Chalan Kanoa has sued the driver of the other vehicle.

Yue Fang Xie Demapan, through lawyer Victorino DLG. Torres, sued Crispin Daque Beltran for negligence.

Demapan asked the Superior Court to order Beltran to pay her damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Torres stated in the complaint that on Feb. 17, 2008, Demapan was a rear passenger of a sedan that was traveling north on Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa. Beltran was driving south on Beach Road.

The lawyer said that Beltran failed to stop or yield to oncoming traffic, causing his vehicle to collide with the sedan.

"As a direct and proximate result of Beltran's negligence and recklessness, Mrs. Demapan's face smashed into the seat in front of her causing her severe pain and injuries," he said.

Torres asserted that the defendant breached his duties when he entered the oncoming traffic without first stopping at the posted stop sign. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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June 15, 2008 • 11:00AM to 4:00PM
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** CDMA Phones with TDMA Trade includes Free $25.00 Load • Free Text Card * Regular buy includes Free $20.00 Load
*** Cannot keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards not accepted • Some conditions apply

CNMI to see increased flights from S. Korea

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

NOTICE TO ALL VALUED GUESTS

Please be advised that PIC Saipan will be conducting routine maintenance to the Point Break Wave Machine (Flow Rider).

The current schedule of maintenance is as follows:
Point Break Wave Machine: June 12 (Thu) ~ July 3 (Thu), resume operation July 4 (Fri).
**Schedule may change due to weather conditions and any unforeseen problems.*

The Lazy River will remain open during this period; however, the Tube Slide going from the Point Break down into the Lazy River will not be available. All other facilities will be in regular operation.

Thank you very much for your understanding.
PIC Management

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Stefan_Sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Saipan could soon see a much needed increase in flights from Korea, Marianas Visitor Authority board chair Jerry Tan said during the organization's monthly meeting Thursday, a jump that could significantly bolster the island's tourism sector.

Currently, Saipan receives four flights a week from Incheon, South Korea, yet Tan said Asiana Airlines is poised to change that to a daily schedule.

"From all indications from Asiana Air, they will start increasing the daytime flights, which started last May, into a daily flight," Tan said during the meeting, held at the World Resort.

Tan noted that the rate of Asiana flights from Busan could also see an occasional rise from four per week to six "in certain busy months, but not year round."

Based on airline seat availability, Tan said the MVA estimates that Saipan could see up to 165,000 visitors from Korea in the coming year.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was on hand at the meeting and ap-

See CNMI on Next Page

Filipino community sets Pistang Pinoy on Sunday

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General, in cooperation with the United Filipino Organizations, will be holding the traditional "Pistang Pinoy" on Sunday, June 15, as part of celebrations for the 110th Philippine Independence Day.

Pistang Pinoy this year will be held at the Garapan Central Park starting at 9am.

The Philippine Consulate General has already held the annual flag-raising ceremony at the Marianas Business Plaza grounds last Sunday, a full four days ahead of the actual June 12 anniversary, which fell on a

See FILIPINO on Next Page

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STOCK # 4H606499
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2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4
STOCK # 4UC14321
$14,995.00*

2005 Ford Ranger
STOCK # 5PA78255
$12,995.00*

2006 Honda Civic DX
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$14,995.00

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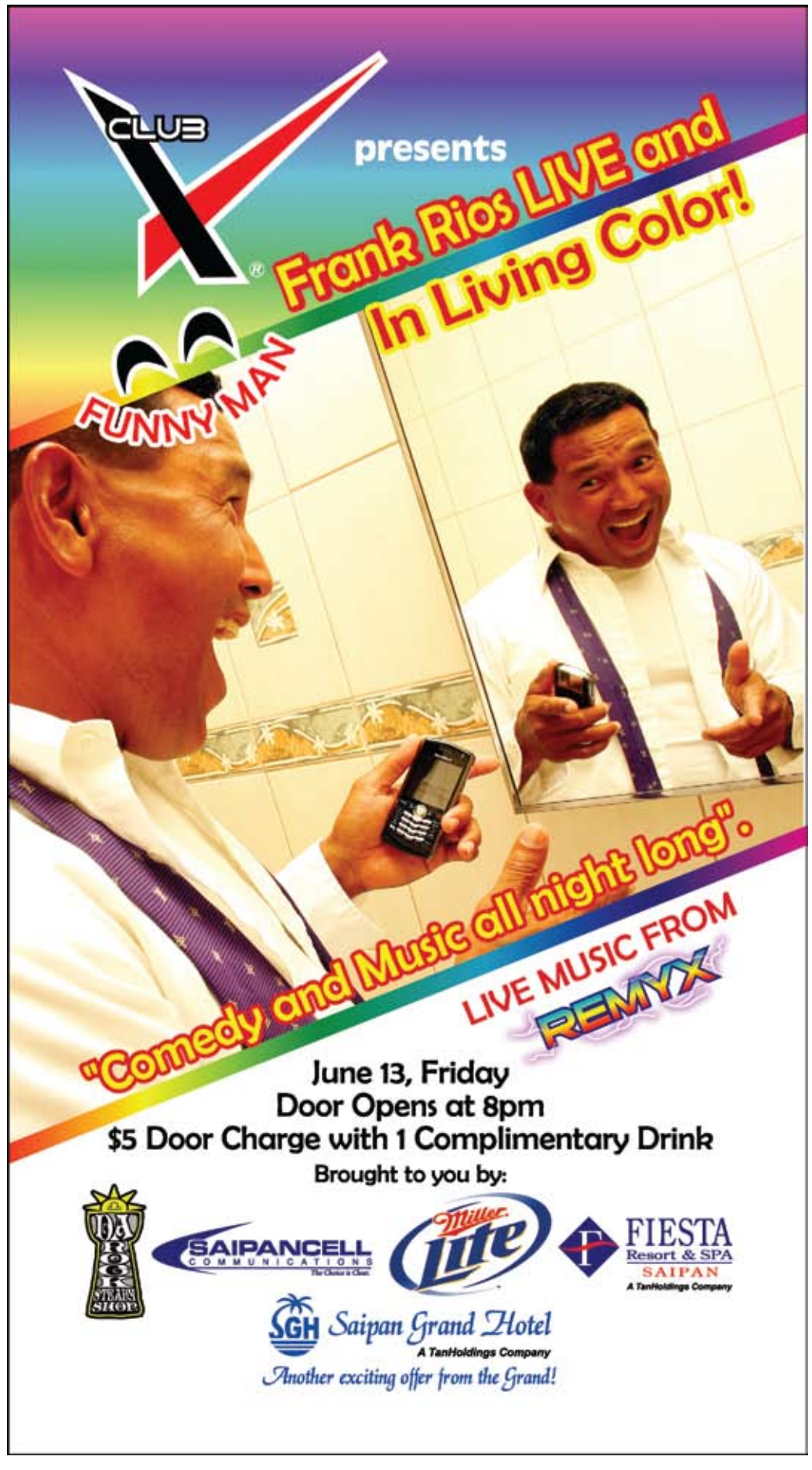

CNMI

From Page 6

plauded the boost in flights, saying such increases are key to improving the island's tourism trade.

"We're focusing on our effort to increase air seats because that's the medium for more tourists to come and visit the CNMI but we have to develop a strong relationship of course with the airlines and the travel agents," Fitial said.

Meanwhile, the MVA elected a host of new board members at the meeting. The newly elected members include Yoichi Matsumura of Pacific Development, Kazusuke Fukuju of Tasi Tours & Transportation and Pacific Micronesia Tours, B.K. Park of the Fiesta Resort and Spa, and Wayne Pagellan or the Ladera International School of Saipan.

FILIPINO

From Page 6

Thursday this year.

The UFO has lined up activities for Sunday's festivities, showcasing Filipino culture and tradition, food, goods, entertainment and other activities.

There will musical performances by Rated R and Fat Joy Slim, song numbers by the Uncle Ben's Saipan Dream Academy Stars, games for both children and adults, magic shows, and prizes.

UFO president Flor A. Miranda emphasized the importance of the day coming ahead as it marks the day for all overseas Filipino workers around the world "a chance to enjoy our country's freedom."

"I just want to invite everybody, including those from Tinian and Rota, to come and join us at this big event to say *Mabuhay* to everybody," Miranda said.

Sunday's guests will include Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, and Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo.

Master and mistress of ceremony will be Ulysses Sabuco and Minda D. Castro.

Upward Bound students off to Hawaii, Calif.

Two students from the Northern Marianas College Upward Bound Program have recently been selected to attend four-week math and science summer programs in Hawaii and California.

Kenneth Palec, a junior at Kagman High School, will be attending the program at the Leeward Community College campus in Pearl City, Hawaii, and Klynne Serrano, a sophomore at Marianas High School, will be attending the program at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, California.

Serrano

Palec

The purpose of the math and science summer program is to motivate and excite students to consider careers in fields requiring math or science, to increase academic skills, to prepare students for college programs, and to provide guidance for academic, career, and personal needs. Generally, it is a summer, residential, pre-college program offering coursework in math (algebra through calculus), English, literature, composition, Spanish, Japanese, Hawaiian, biotechnology, forensics chemistry, marine biology, physics and college/career guidance.

"It will be an educational and personal experience for me," Palec said. "I hope to learn new things to improve myself and enhance my college life skills. I am grateful for being chosen for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"I hope to learn more about science and mathematics which will help me decide what career to pursue," Serrano said.

The program will further provide them with the experience of living in a college environment, immersed in a math and science study program with other participants who have goals similar to theirs.

Palec and Serrano will also participate in laboratory and field activities that emphasize skill development in note taking, quantification, observation, and description, graphing, independent and group research, experimental techniques, and oral reporting. Workshops, guest speakers, counseling, and enrichment activities will be conducted to enhance learning.

Palec is the son of Joseph and Felina Butters and Serrano is the daughter of Manuel and Kathleen Serrano. ***(NMC)***

Father's Day Specials
Sunday Brunch Buffet from 10:30am - 2:00pm
$25.00 for adults
$15 for children under 12
Will include a variety of fabulous entrees,
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Dinner beginning at 5:00pm, featuring a
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- Melissa Duenas Diaz, Defendant.	))))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-503

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 25, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 52, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 934 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 02 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4410, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 27, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Condition of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of May, 2008

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA# 08-004

OPENING DATE: June 13, 2008 CLOSING DATE: June 30, 2008

Position: RECORDS SPECIALIST, SAIPAN

NATURE OF WORK: The employee will assist the Manager, Records & Statistics, with file maintenance of Fund members' records, supervision of technicians; provide members information pertaining to their records and assist with enrollment for Fund membership, and life and health insurance, in addition to performing such office tasks as answering the telephones and producing form letters.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Any combination equivalent to graduation from college with a degree in liberal arts plus one (1) year of experience in records management, or a high school graduate with five (5) years of progressive experience in office systems and procedures or records management. Knowledge of word processing and database management computer software is necessary.

COMPENSATION: Pay Level 23/01, or $16,651.510 to 23/12, or $27,437.440 per annum.

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials (high school/college degree) **and** police clearance at the Fund office no later than **5:00p.m., Monday, June 30, 2008**; application packages will be accepted by hand delivery, e-mail and/or postal mail. **Late or incomplete application packages will not be accepted**. Packages must be marked "**JVA# 08-004 - Confidential**" addressed to the following:

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Rota hemodialysis project takes off

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The long-delayed construction of a hemodialysis center on Rota will finally begin today.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced yesterday the contractor, Pacific Cooperation Ltd., is expected to complete the project within 270 days, or by March 10, 2009.

Henry K. Pangelinan & Associates has been retained to manage the construction, and ensure construction performance, quality assurance, and a timely completion of the project.

"I am proud of our [Department of Public Works] team's accomplishment in moving forward with projects such as this and I look forward to the movement of other projects ahead," Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said.

The project has been in the planning stage since 2005. Funding problems had kept the project on hold until the Commonwealth Development Authority recently issued $1.5 million in proceeds from the CNMI's capital improvement bond.

Adjoined to the existing Rota Health Center, the existing RHC Cafeteria will be converted into the new hemo-dialysis center. Construction of the new facility will include utilities separate from the Rota Health Center, including power back-up generator, an independent water supply, and a reverse osmosis system.

The facility will have enough capacity to accommodate the current clients of Rota, while providing for the project's future expansion. It will be furnished with five hemo-dialysis stations, with one unit serving as an isolation care station complete with a mechanical lifter capable of transporting bed-ridden patients to the upper level on a stretcher or wheel chair.

The governor in his State of the Commonwealth address last month said the administration is expediting the drawdown of federal CIP funds.

He reported that since he took office, the Commonwealth drew down a total of $51 million. That amount represents 46 percent of the cumulative balance available for the CNMI's use.

He also bared a plan to use within the next six months about $39 million of the CIP funds toward "projects that will stimulate the economy." He did not specify what those projects are. But he promised that by Spring 2009, the CNMI will have an infrastructure plan in place to satisfy the requirements to qualify for future water and wastewater infrastructure funding from the federal government.

The Office of the Mayor of Tinian,
In Partnership with the Inetnon Åmot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch

PRESENTS

Native Medicine Symposium
"Ta Kontinua Prumaktika I Åmot Natibu/Sibwe Sóbweiló Yáyáál Safeyal Faluwasch"

ANA ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

On Saturday, 21 June 2008, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at the Tinian Youth Center

Traditional Indigenous Healers from Tinian, Rota, and Saipan
Will talk about their practices and some will demonstrate the making of traditional medicines.

The Youths and Adults are Cordially Invited, Free of Charge.

Lunch is sold by Tinian Local Vendors.

This Symposium is funded in part by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to the Inetnon Amot Natibu/Åmmwelil Safeyal Faluwasch (A non-profit corporation).

Wells Fargo Financial Wants To Help You Celebrate Saipan Liberation Day!

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Stop by Wells Fargo Financial on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to begin your Celebration! We are proud to be offering specially designed 100% cotton American and Saipan Flag T-shirts in honor of our July 4th Liberation Day (yours with an approved loan in the amount of $1,000.00 or more!)

Or, call ahead at 235-6030 and upon loan approval, we will have your loan check and Liberation Day T-shirt available (after signing loan papers.)

Why wait? Act now! The Saipan Liberation Day T-shirts are available while supplies last.
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Liberation Day 2008

Granting of loan is subject to our credit requirements. If you have an existing account with us, your new loan may be made by refinancing your existing account instead of as a separate loan.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 13, 2000

$1-M worth of 'ice' seized
Close to $1 million worth of crystal metamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "ice", was seized by the CNMI Customs Services Saturday from a 25-year-old Korean national at the Saipan International Airport, in what could be the biggest drug confiscation on the island in last two years. Customs enforcement team on duty stumbled upon approximately four pounds of the illegal substance from incoming passenger Gim Mahn Soo after a thorough check of his luggage at the customs inspection area.

Gov't may be losing million due to poor collection system
A law must be put in place to boost tax collection efforts of the government amid moves by the Legislature to attract foreign investments into the CNMI, according to Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio. Because the present collection system by the finance department is "lax," the island government may be losing millions of dollars in potential revenues from corporations that have dodged local tax laws, he said.

Tanapag Health Clinic closes its doors
The Tanapag Health Clinic has officially stopped its operation last week after a total of 1,182 residents have already sought medical evaluation in connection with the polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in the village. According to Dr. Richard Brostrom, chief of the medical team, the decision to close down the clinic was due to the lack of federal funding to support the physicians coming from the U.S. mainland.

June 13, 2001

MPLT: No money for new Tanapag tests
The Marianas Public Land Trust yesterday told legislators it does not have money to give for the new round of tests expected to determine the level of PCB and other toxic chemical contamination in Tanapag. The House of Representatives has been pressing MPLT to make $2 million available for the new PCB studies in the village, as called for by Tanapag residents.

OIA seeks update on Kagman school project
The US Department of the Interior has requested for an updated report on the remedial work that was administered on Kagman Elementary School, a project still besieged with construction woes. The federal agency sought for the information, seeking assurance before committing to the possibility of employing another study to be conducted on what is conceived to be a "troubled" project from start to finish.

More Compact-Impact money for CNMI seen
The CNMI may get an additional $1 million in Compact-Impact funding from the United States government through legislation that also seeks to soften restrictions on the 50-50 match requirements for federally funded projects. This, after the US House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee approved the Interior Appropriations bill for the Fiscal Year 2002.

June 13, 2002

Replacement of asbestos pipes nears
Long worried over the asbestos pipes through which some of their water flow through, residents of the China Town homestead area may now breath easier, with relief now in sight. Gov. Juan N. Babauta has signed into law the measure re-appropriating some $1.72 million that would go toward the replacement of the asbestos water pipes in the homestead-a move that ensures the future health of residents in the area.

CPA gears up for anticipated slowdown in seaport traffic
Cargo traffic at the Saipan International Harbor is anticipated to drop by 20 percent, as a result of the expected slowdown in garment manufacturing-related activities on the island in 2005. This dim projection prompts the Commonwealth Ports Authority to start exploring alternate activities that would help sustain the operations of all three seaports in the Northern Marianas. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the anticipated drop in seaport activities in 2005 will aggravate the current slowdown brought about by the Sept. 11-related economic upheavals.

Six Korean media outlets to visit Saipan and Rota

The Marianas Visitors Authority announced yesterday that representatives of six media outlets from South Korea will be visiting the islands on June 16 – 19. Their visit will include a day trip to Rota on June 18. One staff member will accompany them from MVA Korea.

Tenorio

The six media outlets include Maiel Business Newspaper, Korea Economic Daily, Korea Herald, Sports Hankook, Travel Information Times and ABROAD.

The Maeil Business Newspaper and Korea Economic Daily are the top two business newspapers in Korea with a daily circulation of 1,000,000 copies each. The Korea Herald is the leading English daily with over 50 percent market share in the English daily market and has a daily circulation of 800,000 copies. The Sports Hankook is a popular sports daily with circulation of 500,000 copies. The Korea Travel Information Times is a travel-trade newspaper with circulation of 55,000 copies weekly. ABROAD is a travel magazine with circulation of 50,000 copies monthly.

While on Saipan, representatives of the six media outlets will do numerous tours to learn more about the island. From island tours and jungle tours to shopping and dining, they will get a first-hand look at what Saipan has to offer. On Rota, they will get to see the swimming hole and the bird sanctuary as well as have a meal at the Bay Breeze Restaurant.

MVA would like to thank its participating members for making this media trip possible. They include Asiana Airlines, Hyatt Regency Saipan, KTAS, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hard Rock Café, Stars and Stripes, and Bay Breeze restaurant.

"MVA believes that this familiarization tour will give the media a first-hand experience of the various attractions the Northern Marianas has to offer," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "They will gain on the spot knowledge of the destination and will be able to reflect our islands in their media coverage when they go back to Korea. This tour will also serve to strengthen MVA's relationship with the Korean media. With their help, we can increase our exposure to the Korean public and attract more visitors." ***(MVA)***

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

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Auto, Beige, Stock: U07-007T
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USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	$14,999	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR.	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	$15,999	
GM CARS								
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	$9,599	$7,599
R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	$6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	$9,599	$7,599
U08-032R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	27339	WHITE	ACD-506	$8,699	
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	$8,699	
U08-034R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	22055	BEIGE	ACD-147	$8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	$10,999	$9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~$29,999~~	$28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
U08-024R	2006	TACOMA 4X4 A/CAB	MANUAL	46950	RED	CWMAN001	$16,099	
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	~~$15,999~~	$13,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~$11,899~~	$10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	~~$12,499~~	$11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	~~$11,599~~	$10,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	~~$8,999~~	$7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~$8,999~~	$7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~$10,999~~	$8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~$16,799~~	$15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR. SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	$9,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~$7,999~~	$7,099
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	$10,899	
VANS								
U08-031T	2006	DODGE CARAVAN HYDRAULIC LIFT	AUTO	3671	GOLD	ACF-128	$19,999	
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	~~$9,999~~	$12,599
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~$14,599~~	$12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~$13,699~~	$12,799
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		~~$14,599~~	$12,599
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR. 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~$19,185~~	$19,099

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TOYOTA ACDelco

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A winner for baseball

While the nation marveled at Barack Obama's presumptive capture of the Democratic Party's nomination for president last week and measured the country's racial progress against his achievement, the long march toward justice passed another milestone at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Florida. Before baseball's annual draft got under way, every team in the major leagues symbolically drafted a surviving member of the Negro Leagues. The 30 players chosen represent the hundreds of black and Latino players who were shut out of the majors in the 1920s, '30s and '40s because of their skin color.

They include John "Mule" Miles, whose 11 home runs in 11 games for the Chicago American Giants would be a record to this day had he hit them in the major leagues; Miles is now a Seattle Mariner. Emilio "Millito" Navarro, who was born in Puerto Rico and played shortstop for the Cuban Stars, joins the New York Yankees at age 102. And Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, who was a teammate of a teenage Hank Aaron on the Indianapolis Clowns and the first woman to pitch and win on a men's pro baseball team, is now on the Washington Nationals.

The ceremonial draft was the idea of Hall of Famer Dave Winfield, a vice president of the San Diego Padres, and it was embraced by Commissioner Bud Selig and Jimmie Lee Solomon, executive vice president of baseball operations. Watching the ceremony, it was difficult to tell who was more pleased and proud, the execs or the old-timers. A few of the honorees walked tentatively or used canes, but others were clearly still spry as they posed in their team caps and held up their new jerseys. Photos of them as young athletes flashed on a screen, images from a time when they were lithe and fast and among the best of their generations—outpitching, outrunning, outcatching the competition, but barred nonetheless from America's game. Their dedication defied reason. Rarely able to sleep in motels and hotels or eat in restaurants, they traveled the country playing ball for the love of the game and sleeping for weeks in team buses.

Thursday's draft was a joyful event, devoid of breast-beating on the part of baseball and bitterness on the part of the players. It served to remind that progress and healing sometimes come from momentous events—a victorious campaign or landmark lawsuit—but also from quieter gestures. The honorees said the event was one of the greatest moments of their lives, a day they thought would never come. As he waited to be drafted, one erstwhile infielder said it felt like being born again. Then it was his turn. From the podium came the announcement: "The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim select the shortstop from the Kansas City Monarchs, the 'California Comet,' Neale 'Bobo' Henderson!"

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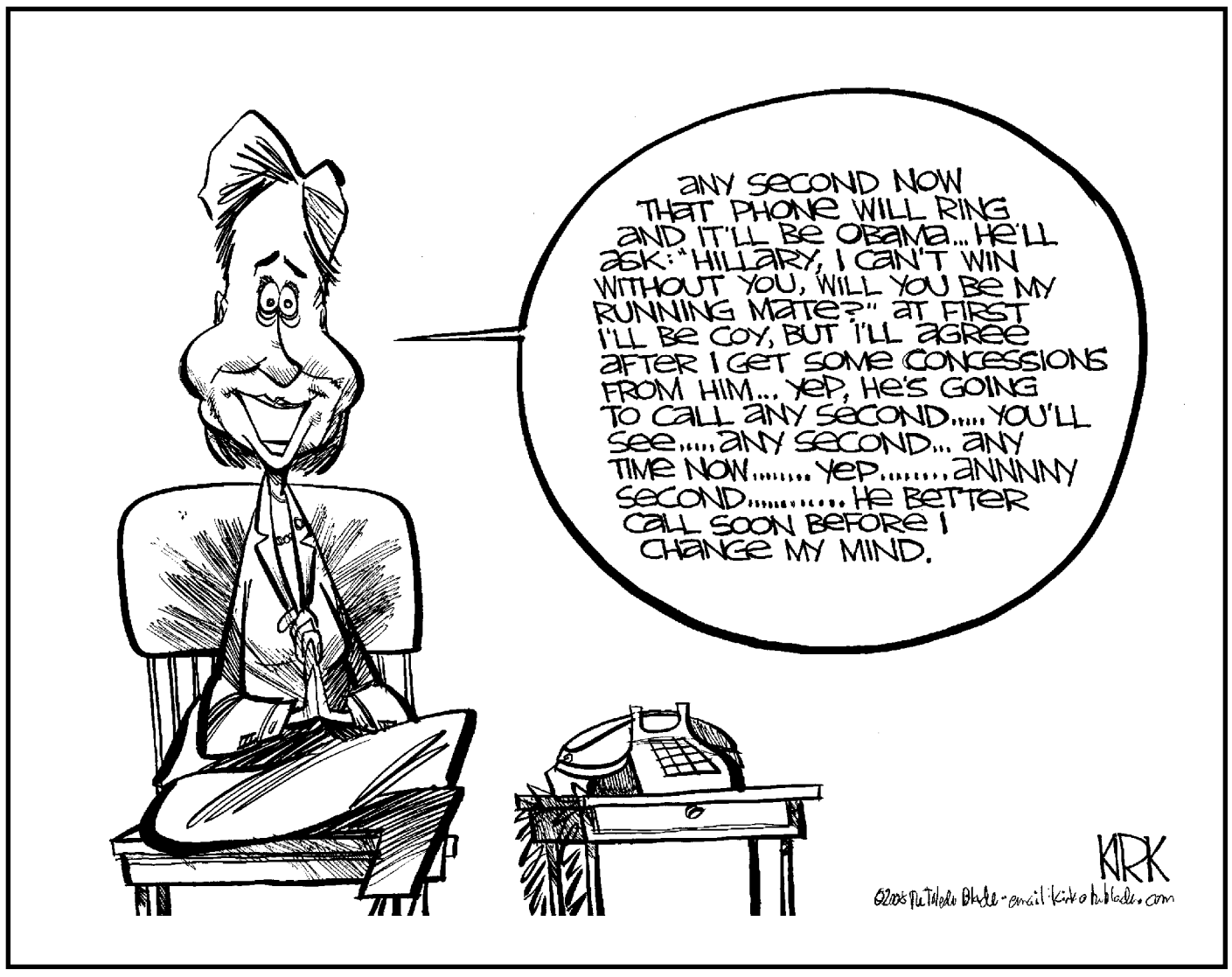
ANY SECOND NOW THAT PHONE WILL RING AND IT'LL BE OBAMA... HE'LL ASK: "HILLARY, I CAN'T WIN WITHOUT YOU, WILL YOU BE MY RUNNING MATE?" AT FIRST I'LL BE COY, BUT I'LL AGREE AFTER I GET SOME CONCESSIONS FROM HIM... YEP, HE'S GOING TO CALL ANY SECOND..... YOU'LL SEE.....ANY SECOND... ANY TIME NOW..... YEP.....ANNNNY SECOND..... HE BETTER CALL SOON BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND.
KIRK

Around the world, much is expected of Obama

By GREGORY KATZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Here's all Barack Obama has to do to meet the world's expectations if he's elected president of the United States:

End an unpopular war in Iraq, heal misery in nations hit by the global food crisis and stop global warming in addition to building bridges to Muslim countries and reverse the unilateralist approach of the Bush administration.

The euphoria that has swept much of the world at the sight of a young and idealistic black politician seizing the Democratic nomination has generated waves of anticipation.

Yet Obama, precisely because of his lofty yet undefined message of hope and renewal, can be all things for all people—a blank canvas on which to project the world's longings.

And in that sense, if he is elected, he may very well be forced to disappoint millions around the world, especially if he takes over a nation caught in an economic slowdown and intractable wars in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Disillusionment could come on several fronts.

Many in developing nations who are drawn to Obama's charisma and concern for the underprivileged might be surprised to learn he publicly espouses protectionist policies that could dampen their struggle to conquer poverty.

He has campaigned on a pledge to pull troops out of Iraq, a popular stance in much of the world. But a sober assessment of the security risks of an early pullout could lead a President Obama to reconsider.

"There is the almost unrealistic hope that Obama will bring change, that anything will be better than Bush," said Robert McGeehan, an associate fellow at Chatham House in London who researches anti-Americanism.

He said few people who are embracing Obama have actually studied his proposals but like him because he represents an end to the Bush era. "Obama's been given a very easy time of it, but now it will become much more difficult," said the scholar, who has been supportive of Bush administration policies.

Already, some of Obama's positions have met with resistance in key hot spots on America's foreign policy agenda.

In the Middle East, Israelis are suspicious of his suggestion that he might reach out to Iranian leaders; many lament the defeat of Hillary Rodham Clinton—whom they see as a more loyal friend of the Jewish state.

Some Arab leaders in surrounding countries are jittery over Obama's promise to curtail the U.S. military presence in Iraq because of fears an outbreak of civil war could quickly spread beyond its borders.

> "I do think Obama embodies the sort of change that would go the fastest and quickest toward changing the United States' reputation abroad. It's because of his personal success story…his optimism…his willingness to try different approaches to Iran, nuclear disarmament and so forth."

And Pakistanis are upset that Obama's desire to make peace in Iraq has been counterbalanced by a pledge to step up military activity in Pakistan if necessary—even to the extent of acting alone on information about terrorist targets within the country's borders.

Still, for millions around the world, the fact that a black man has a strong chance to capture the White House is an inspiration that appears to outweigh concerns over policy matters.

In New Zealand, where indigenous people were robbed of land under British colonial rule, four lawmakers from the Maori Party called Obama's nomination victory "one small step for America, one giant leap for people of color the world over."

Perhaps most of all, people see his victory as a sign of a fundamental shift in race relations in the United States—one that might grow into a global movement for healing racial and cultural divisions.

"I think that the fact that today, whites can choose a black as a candidate, it is a revolution in the mentalities of the United States," said Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade.

In countries that suffered for centuries under the domination of Western powers—and are re-emerging as world players—Obama's message of "Yes we can!" strikes a particularly powerful chord.

"For the common man, in India, the fact that he's a person of color, he represents the equivalent of the underdog," said C. Uday Bhaskar, a New Delhi-based analyst with the Institute for Defense

See AROUND on Next Page

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Random thoughts for CNMI grads

By ED STEPHENS

Ed's column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at SaipanBlog.com or TropicalEd.com.

I have studiously avoided requests (as flattering as they are) to offer wisdom to the CNMI's recent graduates. So such a column isn't in the works.

Despair not, though: Wisdom isn't usually much fun anyway. But random observations are, so let's go with that gig.

Meanwhile, this year, like last year, like the year before that, and the year before that, there's been a lot of hand-wringing over the "limited opportunities" for the CNMI's graduates. This is dove-tailed, of course, with lofty platitudes about how dreamers will always soar to great heights and that success is guaranteed to those who have pure hearts. This is such a tangled web of self-contradictory nonsense that I'd rather walk around it than through it.

If you want my opinion, here it is: Life can't take away what you've done, but it can take away what you have.

So, furthermore, here's my personal philosophy: Do a lot. I don't claim that this will guarantee anybody success, but, on the other hand, not doing a lot won't guarantee success either.

Yes, in life, you are what you've done.

That's all you are.

You're not what you talked about doing.

You're not what you said that everybody else should do.

You're not what you wanted to do.

Nope. You are entirely, exclusively, and irrefutably what you've done.

On this note, I have a built-in bias in favor of the underdog, so I want to address the elements of the CNMI graduating classes who come from families of humble means.

To them, I say: Yes, the CNMI has a very stratified society, as does much of the world. But shake off this fact, and instead re-zero your sites, and concentrate everything on the next 10 years. Hey, that sounds like pompous advice, but I'm being a nice guy here! Ten years! That ain't much. Really. It ain't.

So follow me on this: Hang in there, keep your eyes open, and you'll notice that the princes of patronage who were strutting around like roosters become visibly embittered and strident when they see age 30 years coming at them. While they've been preening in the mirror of public attention, their more talented classmates, even those of humble means, have had time to quietly tally some genuine accomplishments.

For example, I knew a really poor girl in my high school class who had to clean subway cars in Chicago with her mother at night in order to earn rent and food money. She wound up graduating from Stanford before she was 25. I've known a few guys of very humble means who became jet pilots before age 30.

Indeed, what's interesting is that things usually sort themselves out when you're age 28 or 30 or so. By that point, the smart and talented people start earning respect, and the silver-spoon punks look like, well, what they really are. "My daddy got me a patronage job" might carry a lot of weight in the beer-belly dart league, but "B.S., Engineering, Stanford University," carries weight where it really matters.

For CNMI graduates, the good news in life is this: You're only young once. So you only have to define yourself once. A decade after graduation is all it takes. By that point, in most cases, you'll have become a success, or a tedious mediocrity, or a pathetic bore, or an interesting person, or, well, whatever it is that you really are. If you're looking for optimism, or even justice, in the grand scheme of things, well, there it is.

Saipan flirts with Third-World status

By DAVID KHORRAM
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute and the author of the book World Peace, a Blind Wife, and Gecko Tails. *Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.MarianasEye.com, or leave comments at www.MarianasEye.blogspot.com.*

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In his book, and *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*, economist Jeffrey Sachs points out that "when the preconditions of basic infrastructure (roads, power, and ports) and human capital (health and education) are in place, markets are powerful engines of development. Without those preconditions, markets can cruelly bypass large parts of the world, leaving them impoverished and suffering without respite."

He is discussing issues related to poverty, but in this dense statement he points out the pre-requisites for economic success. They are really quite simple: a combination of human capital and of infrastructure. Human capital is made up of two parts according to Sachs: health and education. It makes sense. If a people want to develop economically, they need some basic level of health, and they need education. Basic infrastructure on the other hand consists of three things: roads, ports and power. Roads are needed for internal movement of goods and people, ports are needed to bring materials, goods and people into and out of the area, and power is needed to provide the energy for all of this to work (and for all forms of distance communication).

Here in the CNMI, we have a decent level of health care services. In fact, given our isolation and our small population, I would say that it's outstanding. Education also is doing well. We have a high literacy rate, children have access to free education, and private education is also available. Opportunities for higher education are limited here, as are vocational schools. If we were to improve a facet of our human capital, it would be in educating our population in ways to unlock their potential more completely. It's an area for possibilities.

On the infrastructure side of the equation, we have a good system of roads, and a well-developed seaport and airport. The major weakness in our infrastructure is our power. Power is unreliable and expensive. According to Sach's formula, lack of reliable power it is not simply an inconvenience. Power is one of the key elements required for economic development.

On the global scale, we're doing pretty well. We can improve our education, and we must address our power situation, but we have the other elements—health, roads and ports. I don't really think that we're on our way to becoming a Third-World jurisdiction, but with enough neglect, it could happen. Unless we address the basic components of the formula, we are doing more than inconveniencing ourselves. We are missing opportunities, and slipping into the company of undeveloped nations.

Letter to the Editor

Rota needs fair and honest leaders

To the voters of Rota community, I urge each and everyone of you to be careful this coming general election. Why? As all of you have experienced in the past when voting for candidates that do not have the knowledge or the capacity to fulfill promises made during the campaign, at this moment the people are not seeing what changes need to be done by our present leaders. I personally believe that some of the leaders of Rota are not 100 percent completing their goals and objectives when sworn in to be the leaders of the community.

There are so many problems on Rota that needs to be ironed out. The leaders should take into consideration and prioritize what the people really need. They should think about who put them in their posts. What's happening now reveals that all they want is the vote, not the people. The people of Rota are suffering because of the ailing economy. I believe that a true leader is the solution to solving the problem. Come on, Rota, choose the right person that can work for us and turn our island treasure into a paradise.

Please do not elect the person who does not understand the role of the government system. I do respect your decision but bear in mind that they always fail on their promises. We really need a candidate that has an outstanding capability to secure our needs and to fight for our rights by representing us 100 percent to create better times for our beautiful island. Most of us are tired of the Trust Territory style. This is a modern society and we need a new way of life. Moving backwards is not the right way. We are facing new technologies. Therefore, it is imperative that the right candidate is a must for the entire community. Refrain from putting the wrong person at the wrong time.

Have you noticed the problems in the past when we chose an incompetent person to represent us on Saipan? Some were embarrassing when representing us because they did not know how to

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AROUND

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Studies. "I think Indians will connect with the underdog."

"He's not the red-necked white man that invokes the deepest kind of colonial anxiety in India," Bhaskar said.

Some analysts said Obama's multicultural background and vision of engaging the world on the key issues of the day would help repair America's tattered world image.

"I do think Obama embodies the sort of change that would go the fastest and quickest toward changing the United States' reputation abroad," said Tomas Valasek, director of foreign policy and defense at the Center for European Reform in London.

"It's because of his personal success story ... it's because of his optimism ... it's also because of his willingness to try different approaches to Iran, nuclear disarmament and so forth," Valasek said.

The bumpy transition from being an inspirational icon to a flesh-and-blood prospective leader taking real stances on difficult issues is beginning to create complications.

For example, Obama's initial comments embracing Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel—made this week in a speech before an influential Jewish lobbying group in Washington—has alienated Palestinians looking for an American leader to pressure Israel into key concessions.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he "rejected" Obama's comments.

There was a similar reaction in Indonesia, where Obama spent four years as a child in elementary school. His statement this week that he would be "a true friend of Israel" dampened enthusiasm in the predominantly Muslim country, where the Palestinian cause enjoys wide support.

Maria Soraya, a business owner in Jakarta, said Obama's statement is "proof" that there can never be peace in the Middle East.

"America can't be trusted," she said. "They hate Islam. They don't want to see Islam advance, they would hate it. They can't be trusted, whoever their president is."

But Obama's race has also sparked hope in Palestinian territories.

"Obama came from the black community, the community that has a long history of suffering in the U.S. Of course he would feel sympathy with those who suffered the same, like Palestinians," said Fayez Abu Zeid, a 54-year-old baker in Jenin on the West Bank.

"In all aspects, Obama is much better for our part of this world. He is similar to us."

There is still much skepticism in the Middle East and elsewhere about the possibility of an Obama victory because of deeply held beliefs about American racism.

"Obama will not be accepted by the majority of the American people because he is black," said Sateh Noureddine, managing editor of the Lebanese newspaper As-Safir. "Also, neither U.S. traditions nor the political balance of power will allow this to happen."

There is a tendency in some places to discount Obama's campaign statements and assume that if he is elected he will largely embrace mainstream American economic and foreign policy as practiced in the last few decades.

Sheng Dingli, director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in China, said that Obama's criticism of China, for example, will likely fade if he is elected president.

"He's harsh toward China on both human rights and trade issues," Sheng said.

"But he will change, just like George Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. They were all harsh toward China during the campaign but softened after the election. Their job is to protect America's interests, and they know trade with China benefits America."

Associated Press writers throughout the world contributed to this report.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

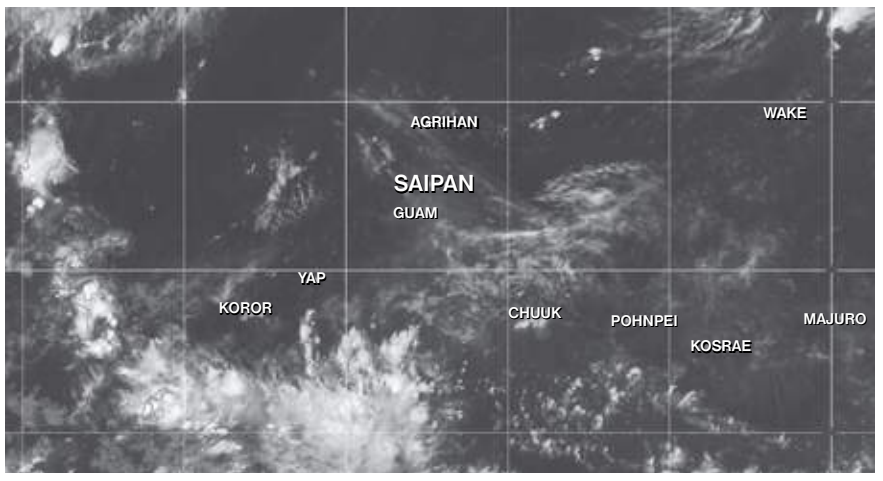
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Hong Kong	Rain	▲82	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼72
London	Showers	▲63	▼46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼62
Manila	Showers	▲89	▼80
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲56	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
New York	Sunny	▲85	▼66
Osaka	Sunny	▲84	▼63
Paris	Cloudy	▲66	▼49
Pusan	Sunny	▲86	▼66
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼57
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼44
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲87	▼61
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼64
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough heads southeastward from 3N130E to 3N137E to EQ140E. Convergent west winds south of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well south of Koror and Yap. A surface trough extends northward from 3N146E to 10N147E. Trade-winds converging near the trough are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Chuuk within 125 miles of a line from 6N147E to 11N150E. A weak surface trough angles northeastward from 21N161E to beyond 25N at 165E. Trade-winds converging to the southeast of the trough axis are aiding the formation of scattered showers north of Wake Island within 40 miles of a line from 20N161E to 25N168e. Trade-winds converging near the equator are producing scattered showers south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro but over Tarawa to the south of a line from 3N154E to 4N163E to 1N170E to 3N180. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers east of Majuro between 6N and 10N from 173E to 177E. A nearly stationary front curves southeastward from 25N172E to 23N176E to beyond the date line at 23N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found southwest of Midway Island along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:11AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:31AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
5:08PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:50PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:47AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:17PM	1:30AM
Saturday	3:06PM	2:06AM
Sunday	3:56PM	2:44AM
Monday	4:48PM	3:26AM
Tuesday	5:40PM	4:10AM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letter to the Editor

Teachers, principals, BOE and governance

The childish tease of "Na Ni Na Ni Boo Boo," often heard around elementary schools, implies "shame on you" or "the joke's on you." I couldn't think of a phrase better suited for the behavior of two principals on the issue of the Education Commissioner's termination. Their desire for transparency in the COE's termination gave me the biggest laugh I've had in a long, long time. I don't think they stopped for a minute to realize that their complaints are the same complaints teachers have had about principals for years. I'm not happy about the COE loosing his job by any means and I am also sad that he lost his job. But we must move on as the BOE chairwoman said because I do know it means a chance for a new beginning and possibly a new direction, which keeps my hopes alive.

> Some of the very people that have been perpetuating a policy of "no accountability and no transparency" with employee relations and non-renewals without cause are now the most vocal against it when it happens within their ranks.

The protest by the principals is not all the principals' fault and I want to make it clear I'm not against any principal but we must examine the facts surrounding the outcry of certain principals. I'm also doing this in a joking way to keep from being too upset. Principals speak of "sharing leadership with the BOE" but when have principals truly shared the leadership decisions of schools with teachers? Principals even had some 20 teachers to help them fight for the COE but where were these principals and teachers when I was fighting for teachers? The reference to the COE as the principals' "buffer" illuminates the protection and the power that principals have received from the COE's office but where is the buffer for teachers? Principals are asking the Board to "reciprocate" but when teachers ask or demand for principals to reciprocate, the teacher usually has to *vacate* and that's common knowledge among teachers at certain schools.

Teachers need to take note of the fact that ACT's principal who represents teachers has chosen to make her first battle on the behalf of an administrator, with no consideration to all the shortcomings facing teachers. It's sad joke on teachers. I was so glad to see this Board is not going to hide behind their decisions and face the public head on, which is a positive indicator about the new leadership.

While I do understand the concern for some explanation about the COE being fired, principals need to know that *only* the COE is due an explanation—not the general public. If the COE chooses to protest, then only he can release this information or at his request. But more important is the fact that over the years hundreds of teachers were not renewed by principals without cause—just like the COE. I'm sure hardly any of these teachers "expect to be terminated for unknown reasons with no course of redress" and they were just as surprised as the principals were about the COE. A teacher personally let me read their letter of non-renewal consisting of two sentences: "I am writing to inform you that your contract will not be renewed. This is your 90 day notice & dated ___." A surprise letter with these two sentences is all teachers get from principals after *years* of service to PSS, which is why it is disappointing yet hilarious to see principals publicly not walking their talk! How can one principal deem one teacher bad when, after that teacher transfers to another principal, is thought of as great? The sad part is this particular teacher was HQT certified in two different subject areas, meaning it will take two teachers to replace this one. That's why I laughed so hard at the two principals doing most of the complaining, given the letters of non-renewal they have issued over the years. Their behavior reminded me of the "Na Ni Na Ni Boo Boo" for the two principals leading a protest against the same things they have perpetuated themselves. We call it being hypocritical.

Principals are now seeing the view from the teachers' side of the table with their leader being terminated "without cause." But the attitude and behavior of some principals is not all of their own doing, nor was it the COE's. This problem began over eight years ago when the former COE chose to "guarantee full power and protection" to all principals with no real governance system for accountability other than the COE. To this day, principals are still protected by the COE when they should only be protected and governed by policy like everyone else. Having the COE to speak up and defend decisions on behalf of a principal in opposition to a teacher(s) is a no-win scenario for teachers, staff and the system. I witnessed it first hand and I proved it with PRAXIS. I have personally heard a certain principal hired by the previous administration still bragging today

See TEACHERS on Page 13

ROTA

From Page 11

negotiate or lobby for the people of Rota. This practice should discontinue so that it won't happen again during this approaching election. Believe it or not, there are a lot of good candidates that can be endorsed to run in the general election. Hopefully a background scrutiny will be implemented in order to become a candidate. Poor records or the incompetent ones should be disqualified immediately.

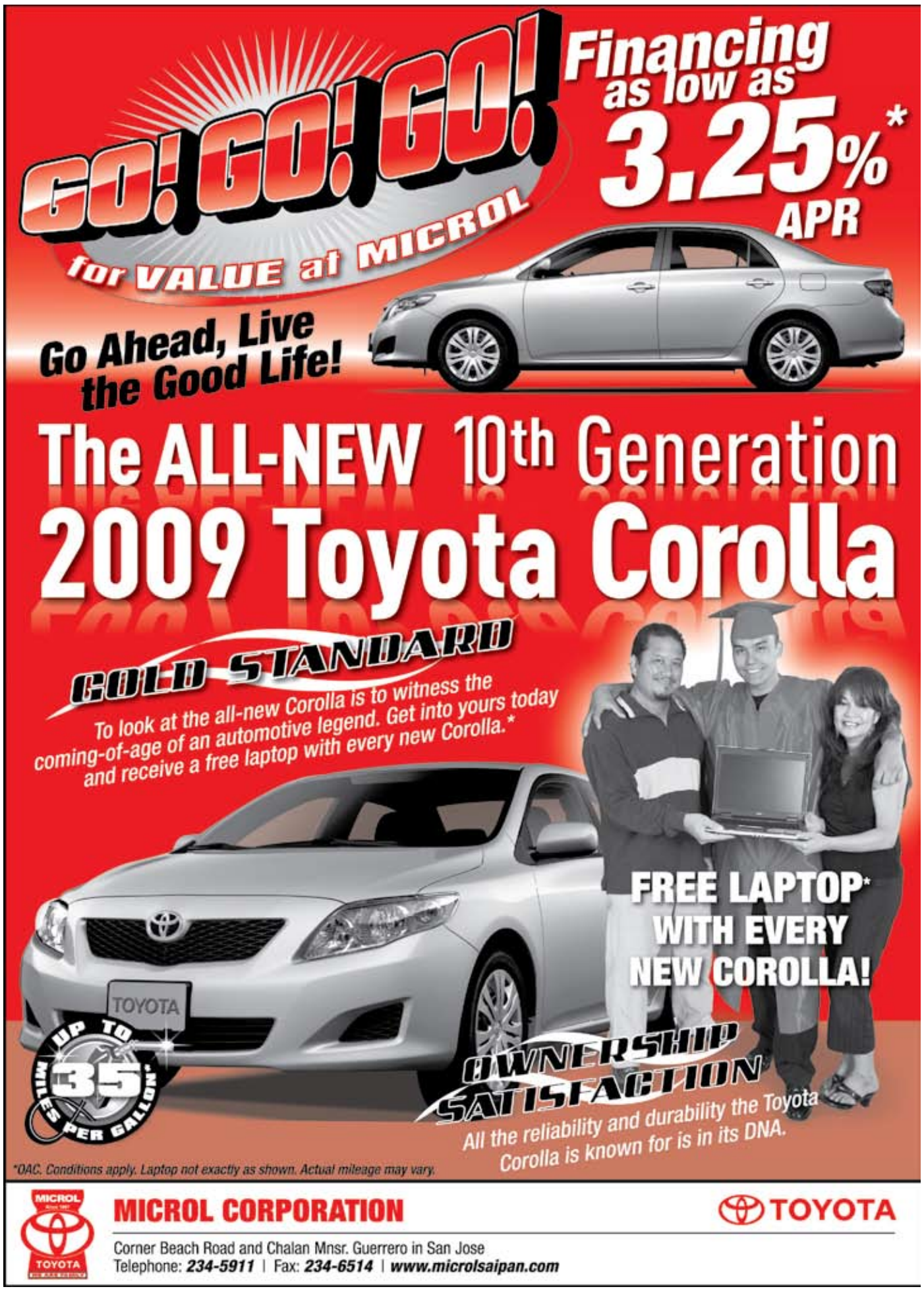
I would also like to ask the Commission on Elections to strictly enforce the policy against accepting candidates who have a felony conviction from seeking public office. This should not be condoned when they apply or file a petition to become a candidate. It is not a good image for the public. I am not really aware of the commission's policies but seeking public office with a bad record is a poor reflection for the whole community. This is a very professional job and it deals with people constantly. The people of Rota should be mindful and not endorse or choose a candidate that has a poor history.

Running for an office is not a game. Whoever you are that is intending to seek public office this coming election, I wish you a good luck in your future political endeavor. Remember that the people should be first. I know that beautification is part of efforts to boost the island economy but the people is the first choice. The people are really hurting because of what the leaders are doing. There are so many unemployed on the island. The prices of commodities are getting more expensive. There are inadequate resources such as school supplies, health care, welfare, etc. The assistance is not sophisticated at this time.

In closing, I urge the future incoming leaders to consider these problems so that the situation doesn't continue. They should focus more on what is vital for the people. We need leaders who are well oriented in what they have promised to do and what they are supposed to do. Politics should be put aside and they must do what is needed for the people and the island. There should be understanding within the Legislature and a move toward addressing future needs, without the power struggles that may lead to misunderstandings and end up not doing what is right for the people.

I hope this letter will be helpful to those who may be having second thoughts in choosing who their leaders should be. Go for the leaders whom you know will keep his/her promises and not abandon what they promised to do after being seated in office.

Abigail Manglona
Yona, Guam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TEACHERS

From Page 13

that "they are not accountable to teachers and they only have to answer to their boss, the COE." Well, news flash, your boss is gone now and I hope the lesson has been learned. I know this attitude is not shared by all principals but it does illustrate to the Board that we have a problem but at least we know a good place to start our repairs on the governance system for principals.

Some of the very people that have been perpetuating a policy of "no accountability and no transparency" with employee relations and non-renewals without cause are now the most vocal against it when it happens within their ranks. Now that I think of it, I can't ever remember in the past 16 years of a principal not being renewed without cause and I have never seen or heard of a principal speaking up or fighting for teachers! But I've been saying for years in so many words that, "What's good for teachers is good for principals and what's good for principals is good for the Board and what's good for the Board has got to be good for the system." In academia we call it governance and leadership through teamwork but most people call it common sense. Teachers, principals and the administration are supposed to be governed by policies, not preferences, that set the conditions for a "symbiotic working relationship" to accomplish the goals, standards and expectations set by the Board through policy if the system is going to function properly for the best results.

Teachers can't be responsive to student needs without principals being responsive and supportive of teachers' needs and request. A teacher's job is to teach, the principal's primary job is to establish an education environment and to get the teachers what they need to do the job and that includes "before & after" school curricular related services and activities. The principal should hold the teacher accountable for teaching and the teachers and staff should be able to hold the principal accountable for leading. Teachers and staff shouldn't have to depend on a COE that hardly visits the campus and never takes any kind of assessment input on the principal from teachers and staff. This form of accountability is commonplace for academic performances and presentations throughout academia yet we don't apply this simple accountability check on the most important person at the school level—the principal. I know from being on the Board that the administration and the board have never given teachers' voices the weight and concern that was proper and necessary, which is why I keep getting the opportunity to say Na Ni Na Ni Boo Boo.

But I'm sure this Board has a very different attitude from previous Boards and it was evident in their desire for the next COE to be a risk-taker because if we are to ever catch up with our counterparts on the mainland, we can't depend on traditional schools of thought. We must learn to think and execute outside the box. It is called "breaking paradigms" and it is clear we need to break the old mold and begin with a new one and to do so we must take educated and calculated risks, which I believe this Board is capable of doing. I was also glad to see this Board break away from working for the COE to having the COE work for the Board. Previous Boards allowed the COE to set the vision and the agenda and I'm so glad to see those days go because at least now teachers and even parents may have a say in the future vision and agenda of the Public School System if teachers can ever get ourselves truly organized.

We have a lot of good and even great principals and I also consider some principals my friends. But teachers and principals really need to function under the conditions of a symbiotic relationship with reciprocal accountability driven by BOE policies and not the preferences of the principal or the COE. This is the 21st century model for education governance that we should be trying to achieve. People commonly recognize it as real teamwork that follows rules for excellence. (I wrote this in part because strangely enough it was my Governance in Education professor, Dr. Piland, who said, "Don't learn all this good stuff about education and not use it," so I'm just putting it to good use by sharing it with the public and thanks for the continuous support for my letters.)

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former BOE Teacher Rep.

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ROTA PRESENCE

An audience with the Rota Delegation on the future prospects for Rota. From left, Sen. Paul Manglona, PDI president Yoichi Matsumura, Sen. Paterno Hocog, KNT executive managing director Ochi Yoshinori, Sen. Felix Mendiola and KNT managing director Makoto Yashiro.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Another picture with the Rota Delegation. From left, Sen. Paul Manglona, Yoichi Matsumura, Sen. Paterno Hocog, Ochi Yoshinori, Felix Mendiola, Makoto Yashiro, and PDI assistant general manager Masanori Takahashi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KNT GIFT

Ochi Yoshinori, KNT's executive managing director, presents Gov. Benigno Fitial with KNT's "happi," a typical Japanese attire worn during summer festival. Fitial personally thanked Ochi for the extensive travel network initiated by KNT for the recent successful launching of the charter flights to Rota in cooperation with PDI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday to Dr. Tony Stearns, shown here enjoying one of his passions in life, sailing, who just celebrated his birthday yesterday, June 12. Greetings come from your staff at the Marianas Medical Center.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday greetings to June Pineda, shown here with wife Dhorie and *inaanak*, JP. We wish you all the best in life, good health and happy life! God bless you. We love you so much! Greetings come from your wife Dhorie, Tatay Doming, Jhey, Franni and baby JP.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATION

Donna Galvez receives the Mallard Award during the recent graduation ceremony at the Garapan Elementary School. Congratulations on a job well done! From, Daddy and Mommy.

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PAWS looking for homes—again

PAWS is in need of permanent or foster homes for the following animals:

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Five adorable kittens ready for adoption. All kittens are litter trained, de-flead, and on solid food.

■ E.T. is an orange and white striped tabby kitten who was so named because of his out of this world ears. E.T. loves to sit quietly and watch everything and everyone around.

■ Mesa is E.T.'s twin, an orange and white striped tabby. Mesa is the snuggler of the group and loves nothing better than to curl up in the crook of your arm. She is a docile sweetheart.

■ Phantom is the odd man out in this crowd, as he has no sibling that matches his appearance. He is mostly white with black spots, almost like a miniature cow.

■ Phantom is the adventurer and loves to explore the boundaries of his home and his humans.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the five adorable kittens ready for adoption.

PAWS is still in need of a home for Leo, a young male kitten thought to be about 9-10 weeks old. He loves to snuggle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

These two dogs are in immediate need of permanent or foster homes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

■ Banshee is a black, orange, brown and white calico and was named for his fondness to talk to anyone who will listen.

■ Moo is Banshee's twin in appearance and is also a snuggler and talker. Moo always keeps an eye on his siblings to make sure none of them get out of line.

If you are interested in adopting or fostering any of these beautiful kittens, contact Aaron or Amanda via email at amclernan@gmail.com or by phone at 256-7732 or 285-8101.

Leo

PAWS is still in need of a home for Leo, a young male kitten thought to be about 9-10 weeks old. He is good with older children and other animals. "He is such a great kitten that I would love to keep him, but I just can't," said his current foster mother. "I would like to find him a very special home."

If you are interested in adopting Leo, contact Melissa at 234-1253 or at melissasimms56@hotmail.com.

Loveable dogs

PAWS is also looking for an immediate permanent or foster home for two dogs. The people who are currently caring for the dogs found them abandoned about a month ago and are unable to continue fostering the dogs this summer. Both are well-behaved and gentle. The female dog is expecting puppies.

If you are interested in learning more about this foster or adoption opportunity, contact Michael at 789-2153 or via email at michaeln@nmcnet.edu. ***(PAWS)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Presentation of economic study on monument plan

Dr. Thomas Iverson from the University of Guam will be visiting Saipan next week to present the results of his preliminary economic study identifying the potential costs and benefits of establishing a marine monument in the CNMI.

He will be on Saipan Tuesday and Wednesday, June 17-18. Presentations are scheduled with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee, the Rotary Club of Saipan, Northern Marianas College's Current Issues summer session and MVA's Japan adhoc Committee.

A public presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, 6-8pm at the American Memorial Park auditorium. For more information contact Angelo Villagomez at angelovillagomez@gmail.com or 285-6462. ***(PR)***

Attention all active duty and Reserve family members

There will be a Joint Family Support Assistance Program briefing at the Army Reserve center on Friday evening, June 13, at 6pm. Three members of the JFSAP team from Hawaii will conduct the briefing to discuss many new services being offered to families and to answer questions about the various support programs.

For more information contact the American Red Cross at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Storage tank public meeting reminder

The Division of Environmental Quality will hold a stakeholder meeting on Tues, June 24, 2008, at the Multi-Purpose Center for all aboveground and/or underground storage tank owners and operators.

To access the existing underground and aboveground storage tank regulations, visit the DEQ online at www.deq.gov.mp.

Registration is recommended and can be made by emailing environment@deq.gov.mp or calling the DEQ office at 664-8500 before Friday, June 20. ***(DEQ)***

SSHS Summer Class schedule

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students, Summer Class will start next week. Session one will be from June 16, 2008, to July 11, 2008, 8am to 12pm/12:30pm to 4:30pm. Session two will start from July 14, 2008 to Aug. 8, 2008. ***(PR)***

Hopwood summer school

The Hopwood Junior High School announced that its Summer School would be from June 9 to July 18, from 7:30am to 1:30pm. All students who received notices and calls from school or received letters at home must report to school. If you have three or more absences, this is grounds for repeating the entire grade level next school year. ***(PR)***

KHS Q4 card issuance schedule

Attention parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: We are informing you that the 4th quarter report card issuance for Kagman High School is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008, from 8am to 2pm in the school library. We would also like to inform you that the Summer School classes for English and Math will start on June 10, 2008 (Monday) at 8am to 12pm. ***(PR)***

CNMI Scholarship Office deadline

Application deadline for all applicants to the Educational Assistance Program: New, ongoing, or returning is July 1. Deadline for supporting documents is Sept. 30.

Application and supporting Documents deadline for PL 14-37 Honors Scholarship Program is June 30.

For more information call 664-4750 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 reunion meeting

The 1983 MHS Class Reunion Steering Committee is asking all MHS Class of 1983 graduates to attend our last general meeting to get an update on the status of our upcoming reunion.

The meeting will be held Friday, June 13, 2008, 7pm, at the Kilili Beach Pavilion, Civic Center, Susupe

You may contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details.

Tonnei Camacho: 483-9665
Viola Kaipat: 483-0214
Ed Camacho: 483-5262
Jane Tudela: 234-9571
Frances Mildred Cruz: 483-0995
Ester Teregeyo: 236-9777
Ben Sablan: 287-1480
Diego Songsong: 287-4300

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on June 11 – 15, from 6am to 2am.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

LibDay parade applications now open

The 2008 Liberation Day Steering Committee is now accepting applications for the upcoming 2008 Liberation Day parade. Interested individuals, companies and/or organization may pick up an application at the Marianas Visitors Authority office from Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm. The deadline to submit all application forms is June 27, 2008, no later than 5pm. For more information, contact Frank Tudela at (670) 664-3200/01 or e-mail via ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Benito Clan reunion meeting

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano—the "Benito Clan"—that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be on June 18, 2008, at the residence of John and Michelle Tagabuel in Pasgua Court, Dandan, at 6pm.

Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information you may contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. ***(PR)***

New Call-A-Ride bus schedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities is informing all Call-A-Ride customers of the new Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

Monday to Saturday: 6am to 9pm
Sunday: Off

The bus fee is $2 one way and $4 for round trip

Contact Willdrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell number 483-9013/9078. (PR)

Vendors sought for Games, tournament

The 2008 Oceania Games will be held on June 21-28, 2008 at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Asia Pacific Little League Tournament will be held on June 25 through July 6, 2008 at the Francisco Palacios Baseball Field.

In consideration of these upcoming special events, interested vendors who wish to sell food, snacks and drinks (no alcoholic beverages allowed) during these games are requested to submit/fax their proposals to the Sports and Recreation Office at 664-2510 no later than Friday, June 13, 2008 for consideration. Concessionaires are limited to only six vendors. ***(PR)***

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to June 26, 2008 at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters:
Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports:
Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings
1. No 2008-0884 Conditional Use Application by Aqua Saipan Water Company for use of an existing building for water bottling (see separate newspaper ad for details)
2. No. 2008-0903 Conditional use Application by LD Prime Corp. for warehousing and storage (see separate newspaper ad for details).

D. Contested Cases.
None
E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
1. 2008-0670 Conditional Use Application by GPPC for contractor's office and heavy equipment storage (continued from May 8, 2006 meeting).
2. 2008-0884 Conditional Use Application by Aqua Saipan Water Company to use an existing building for water bottling.
3. 2008-0903 Conditional use Application by LD Prime Corp. for warehousing and storage.
4. 2008-0278 Preliminary Plat Application by Trini Santos for a major subdivision of Lot 031 F 21.
5. 2008-0797 Preliminary Plat Application by Rita Cruz for a major subdivision of lot 002 C 13.
6. 2008-0968 Preliminary Plat Application by Rita C. Cruz for a major subdivision of lot 001 C 14.
7. NO 2008-0908 Preliminary Plat Application by Alexander Vekhov for a major subdivision of TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08

F. Old Business
1. Review proposals for adult business park zoning districts. Decide on publishing proposed regulations to establish adult business park zoning districts.
2. Review public comment on adult business overlay zone and decide on publishing proposed regulations to establish an overlay zone.
3. Amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Saipan Zoning Maps. Review and approve amendments to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps. Review and approve transmittal of proposed amendments of the Saipan Zoning Law to the Legislative Delegation.

G. New Business
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous:
Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Notice of Public Hearing

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on a Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-0884, by Aqua Saipan Water Factory. The application is for the operation of a water factory facility on EA116-4 the site of the former Neo Fashion Garment Factory in San Antonio, Saipan.

Date: June 26, 2008
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, June 26, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Notice of Public Hearing

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on a Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-0903, by L.D. Prime Corporation. The application is for the operation of a warehouse and storage facility on Lot No. 1836/1842 the site of the former East West Rental warehouse facility in Chalan Laulau, Saipan.

Date: June 26, 2008
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, June 26, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Mom-to-be wins Foremost's baby grand prize

Willina Mae Borja, seven months pregnant and an avid milk drinker, is the lucky winner of Foremost Foods' "Gotta lotta cases?" promo.

Drinking milk regularly proved to be good not only for Willina Mae and her baby, but also for her kitchen improvement.

Willina Mae Borja, 18, of Chinatown—whose uncle, Richard Borja, says she has been drinking milk like water since she became pregnant—won a kitchen showcase that consists of a barbecue grill, rice cooker, blender, bread toaster, food processor, pressure cooker, waffle maker, microwave oven, toaster oven, a cookware set, and a dinnerware set.

"I'm surprised that Willina Mae drinks milk like water. She drinks milk practically the whole day—before she goes to work in the morning, when she takes her lunch, and before she goes to bed. We have fruit juices at home, but she prefers to drink milk. No wonder her skin and her body are much improved," Richard said.

"I guess my baby is lucky," Willina Mae said when she learned that she won the Foremost "Gotta lotta cases?" promo baby grand prize.

Willina Mae said she wasn't expecting to win. "When I put my entries in the drop box, I wasn't even thinking that I would win. I was so surprised when I was informed that I won. I am very thankful to Foremost Foods for coming up with this promo," she said.

"I'll save and use the prizes that I won when I finally need them," she said.

Willina Mae received her prizes at the Foremost Foods office in Chalan Lau Lau on June 6, 2008. She won in the promo's second drawing, which was held on June 2, 2008.

There were eight winners in the first drawing, which was held on May 9, 2008. Each won one kitchen item. Five of the eight winners in the first drawing said they regularly bought Foremost Foods' milk products by the case for their kids.

Foremost Foods' "Gotta lotta cases?" promo runs from April 16 to July 5, 2008. The grand prize winner will take home a 7.5-cu. ft. refrigerator, rice cooker, microwave oven, bread toaster, blender, food processor, pressure cooker, cookware set, barbecue grill, dinnerware set, convection oven with rotisserie and waffle maker.

To qualify for the grand prize drawing, entry forms must be received not later than July 5, 2008.

A customer will receive an entry form for every purchase of six 1-qt cartons of Foremost UHT Reduced Fat and/or Full Cream milk. See drop boxes for promo rules.

Foremost UHT Milk is packed with local pride. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Willina Mae Borja, who was described by her uncle, Richard Borja, as "drinking milk like water," stands next to her prize courtesy of Foremost—a kitchen showcase that consists of a barbecue grill, rice cooker, blender, bread toaster, food processor, pressure cooker, waffle maker, microwave oven, toaster oven, a cookware set, and a dinnerware set.

Free business development planning workshop at NMC

In collaboration with the Commonwealth Development Authority, the Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free Business Development Plan Workshop on June 19, 2008, from 8am to 12pm at Room 215 in Building V at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje.

Facilitating this free workshop will be Eric Plinske, director of the Northern Marianas College Small Business Development Center and Business Department chair.

This workshop is designed to provide participants with an overview of the components of, and purposes for, a business plan. During the practical portion of the workshop, participants will work in groups to brainstorm business ideas and follow the business plan format to develop an abbreviated business plan for their idea(s).

Those who wish to register or find out more information can contact Loly Kingzio at 234-5498 ext. 1210 or by emailing Plinske at ericp@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Pacific has few women in politics

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—The Pacific region has always had the lowest percentage of women in politics and is the only region that has shown no improvement in spite of almost two decades of global activism.

Community Development Minister Dame Carol Kidu said this in her keynote address at the Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development in Bangkok recently.

The meeting brought together academics, NGO workers and female politicians from the region to specifically discuss the issue of women in decision making.

Dame Carol said of the eight countries in the world which have no women members of Parliament, five were Pacific Island nations including the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

Vanuatu has only two women representatives in Parliament while Tonga, Marshall Islands and PNG have only one each.

Dame Carol said contemporary culture in the Pacific still tends to be conservative and patriarchal, reflecting a colonial and missionary heritage as well as a reluctance to change a status quo which favors men politically, socially, economically and administratively.

"Even areas that are traditionally matrilineal societies, modern politics has tended to marginalize the women from their traditional power base as the custodians of the land. The imposition of traditional western models and structures of power and resource ownership has been to the detriment of women in many areas."

She said in PNG however, there has been some affirmative action including modification of electoral laws specifically integrity of political parties and Candidates in which 75% of K10,000 [US$3,823.99] is reimbursed to the political party where the female candidate obtains 10% of votes cast in the electorate in that election, as an incentive to political parties to nominate women.

Dame Carol urged women's organizations and female politicians to use this landmark statement as leverage for affirmative action in their own countries.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE TO ELECT PETE A. - DELEGATE
TO U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (U.S. CONGRESS)
PEDRO AGULTO TENORIO
P.O. BOX 10006, PMB 850 • SAN VICENTE VILLAGE, SAIPAN MP 96950

AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR AN EXCITING FUNDRAISING DINNER

AN INVITATION TO SPEND "AN EVENING WITH PETE 'A',
YOUR VOICE IN WASHINGTON, THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR
OUR FIRST DELEGATE TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS."

CHAIRMAN DAVID M. SABLAN AND HIS FUNDRAISING
COMMITTEE MEMBERS, KARL T. REYES, TREASURER,
AND OVERALL CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH C. REYES OF
THE **COMMITTEE TO ELECT PETE A. DELEGATE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS**
ARE PLEASED TO EXTEND TO ALL OF YOU AN INVITATION FOR
"AN EVENING WITH PETE 'A'" IN A FUNDRAISING DINNER
TO BE HELD ON:

DATE: SUNDAY, "FATHER'S DAY," JUNE 15,2008
PLACE: FIESTA RESORT HOTEL AT HIBISCUS HALL
TIME: FROM 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

TICKETS: $50 PER COUPLE, $30 SINGLE
(One free drink of your choice)

Tickets may be purchased at the door of HIBISCUS HALL or by
Calling Ms. Anne S. Teregeyo at: 287-5658,
Treasurer, Karl T. Reyes at: 788-1110, or Ms. Claire Sablan at: 287-7352

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT PETE A.-DELEGATE

Business

Oil soars on dollar, Energy Dep't report

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices regained their stunning upward momentum Wednesday, rising as crude's biggest drivers—a weak dollar and supply concerns—brought buyers back in force. At the pump, gas prices rose to a new record over $4.05 a gallon.

Oil futures that were falling a week ago on concerns about declining gasoline consumption have dramatically reversed course and appear poised to set new records above $140 a barrel. While the market remains concerned about the effect of high prices on demand, several weeks of falling oil inventories and the dollar's inability to make headway against the euro have combined to turn market sentiment decidedly bullish.

That's bad news for consumers, already struggling with rising prices for food and consumer goods. Analysts say gas prices could rise to a national average of $4.25 a gallon by the Fourth of July, and are unlikely to fall as long as oil prices keep surging.

On Wednesday, the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration created new supply worries when it said oil inventories fell by 4.6 million barrels last week. Analysts surveyed by energy research firm Platts expected a much smaller decline of about 1.4 million barrels; any sign that oil supplies are falling has tended to send oil climbing.

Light, sweet crude rose $5.07 to settle at $136.38 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier trading as high as $138.30. Oil surged shot up more than $16 over the course of last Thursday and Friday, reaching a trading record of $139.12 before pulling back earlier this week.

The dollar's travails also sent oil prices rising. The euro bought $1.5562 in late afternoon trading, up from $1.5449 Tuesday. Oil prices have closely tracked dollar moves; last week's sharp price increases came as the dollar fell. Prices then retreated more than $7 earlier this week as the dollar gained ground.

AP

A Toyota advertisement is shown on a World Gasoline station pump in Sunnyvale, Calif., Wednesday, June 11, 2008.

Fed: High energy and food prices keep economy weak

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy remained "generally weak" heading into summer as rising costs for energy and food pounded consumers and forced some companies to push their own prices higher.

The Federal Reserve's new snapshot of business conditions, released Wednesday, underscored two big sore spots for the country: listless economic activity coupled with high energy and food prices. Those rising prices carry the risk of both spreading inflation and putting another drag on overall economic growth.

Chafing under price hikes, "consumer spending slowed ... as incomes were pinched by rising energy and food prices," the Fed said. Manufacturing activity, meanwhile, was "generally soft" and the housing market remained stuck in a rut.

Businesses also were hit by higher costs, especially for energy, metals, plastics, chemicals and food. Such reports were "widespread," the Fed said. To cope, manufacturers in several areas "noted some ability to pass along higher costs to customers" the Fed said. Retailers, however, reported "mixed results with respect to raising final goods prices," the Fed said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Anheuser-Busch says InBev makes unsolicited purchase bid

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Anheuser-Busch Cos., the nation's biggest brewery, received a purchase offer Wednesday from a Belgian brewer that might be too good to refuse. Anheuser-Busch reported late Wednesday that InBev SA gave it an unsolicited bid to buy the company for roughly $46 billion. It's unclear whether senior Anheuser-Busch executives think the deal makes sense, but shareholders may be drawn to the offer—$65 a share, a steep premium over the company's closing price of $58.35 Wednesday. Speculation has been rife in recent weeks that a takeover bid was coming.

Martha Stewart CEO Lyne steps down

NEW YORK (AP)—Susan Lyne, who rebuilt the Martha Stewart Living business in the aftermath of the namesake founder's legal woes, has stepped down as chief executive, and the job is being split between two company executives. The management changes come as Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. navigates through a tough advertising climate and confronts a consumer, saddled with high gas and food prices, who may no longer be eager to replicate the home diva's lifestyle with all things Martha Stewart. Last year, Martha Stewart unveiled an exclusive home furnishings collection with Macy's as part of a multiyear deal; it also signed a multiyear deal to develop a cobranded line of frozen and fresh food with Costco, which started being rolled out late last year.

Staples lands Corporate Express for $2.7B

BOSTON (AP)—Staples Inc.'s four-month campaign to acquire Corporate Express NV finally yielded an agreement Wednesday, a $2.7 billion deal that Staples hopes will put further distance between itself and U.S. rivals Office Depot and OfficeMax. Its two rivals combined would be smaller than Staples once the deal closes. With U.S. retail sales of office supplies slumping, Staples also hopes to expand in the more profitable business of delivering office supplies to corporate customers—Corporate Express' strength—and build off the Netherlands-based company's clout in Europe. The agreement thwarts a competing deal Corporate Express had reached three weeks ago to acquire France's Lyreco SAS, which is now expected to receive a $46 million breakup fee from Corporate Express.

House refuses to extend unemployment benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House on Wednesday narrowly defeated a Democratic attempt to give unemployed Americans an extra three months of jobless benefits after the White House threatened to veto the bill. But Democratic leaders said they will bring the bill back for a second vote on Thursday. The bill would have extended the average $300-a-week benefit check by 13 weeks for all unemployed Americans. Job seekers in high unemployment states like Alaska, California, Michigan and Rhode Island would have been able to get an extra 13 weeks on top of that. House Democratic leaders brought up the bill under a procedure that required a two-thirds vote for approval. The final vote was 279-144, just three votes shy of the two-thirds margin, same as needed to overcome a presidential veto.

Stocks tumble as oil prices surge

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street tumbled Wednesday as oil prices rebounded, fanning concerns that inflation will further pinch consumers and lead central banks to raise interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 200 points to its lowest close since mid-March.

The Federal Reserve's Beige Book, which provides readings on the U.S. economy by region and arrives two weeks before the Fed's next meeting, indicated that Americans are straining under rising energy and food costs. The Fed said the economy remains "generally weak."

The Dow fell 205.99, or 1.68 percent, to 12,083.77. Wednesday's close was the lowest for the blue chips since March 17, when the Dow ended at 11,972.25.

The biggest loser among the 30 Dow components was Alcoa Inc., which fell $3.40, or 8 percent, to $39.32 after a JPMorgan analyst said the aluminum producer is not planning to sell itself or spin off part of its business.

Broader stock indicators also declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 22.95, or 1.69 percent, to 1,335.49, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 54.93, or 2.24 percent, to 2,394.01.

Bond prices rose Wednesday. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 4.07 percent from 4.11 percent late Tuesday.

The dollar fell against other major currencies, while gold prices rose.

Feds fine homebuilders for water pollution

WASHINGTON (AP)—Four of the nation's largest homebuilders have agreed to pay $4.3 million in fines for failing to control runoff at construction sites in 34 states and the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency and Justice Department announced Wednesday.

The four companies—Centex Corp. of Dallas, KB Home of Los Angeles, Pulte Homes Inc. of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and M.D.C. Holdings Inc. of Denver—also agreed to take steps above what is required by law to keep 1.2 billion pounds of sediment out of the nation's waterways.

"Dirt can pollute. The bottom line is this: Whatever ends up on the ground at a construction site can be swept into the nearest waterway," said EPA Assistant Administrator Granta Nakayama.

Rain can carry contaminants such as dirt, stucco, paint and other materials from construction sites into storm drains and nearby waterways, where the silt can clog fish gills, smother fish eggs and block sunlight from plants, Nakayama said.

The settlements are part of a nationwide crackdown by the EPA to find storm water violations at construction sites.

The Clean Water Act requires builders that disturb land to obtain permits and minimize runoff from rain. The companies named in the settlements allegedly failed to obtain permits before clearing land for subdivisions and to prevent silt and debris-laden runoff from leaving 2,202 construction sites from 2001 to 2005.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,433.200 Down 128.700 (-2.31%)

HONG KONG 22,966.20 Down 361.40 (-1.55%)

JAKARTA 2,384.3411 Up 9.556 (+0.40%)

TOKYO 13,888.60 Down 294.88 (-2.08%)

K. LUMPUR 1,229.28 Down 1.68 (-0.14%)

MANILA 2,544.89 Down 34.39 (-1.33%)

SINGAPORE 2,999.83 Down 46.94 (-1.54%)

SEOUL 1,739.36 Down 42.31 (-2.37%)

BANGKOK 785.16 Down 6.50 (-0.82%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 12,083.77 -205.99

NASDAQ 2,394.01 0.00

S&P 1,335.49 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0552
British Pound	0.512
Canadian Dollar	1.0203
Chinese Renmbi	6.9211
Euro	0.6458
Hong Kong Dollar	7.809
Indian Rupee	42.838
Indonesian Rupiah	9305
Japanese Yen	107.54
Malaysian Ringgit	3.272
New Zealand Dollar	1.3216
Philippine Peso	44.37
Singapore Dollar	1.3723
South Korean Won	1030.1
Swiss Franc	1.0419
Taiwan Dollar	30.37
Thailand Baht	32.995

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

DOLLARS AND SENSE

How do I scam thee? Let's count the ways

BY DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

When money is short and times get tough, the number of financial scams increases. Don't fall victim to these scams designed to take your cash ... or your identity.

Law-enforcement scams: In this one a supposed member of law-enforcement calls and says that your identity has just been stolen, but they've nabbed the bad guys in the nick of time. You, however, asked to provide personal identifying information to compare to what the bad guys had. What they really want is your Social Security number.

Credit repair: Not only are you asked to make a hefty prepayment for services, but you give them your Social Security number and all your personal information.

Home remodeling: With warm weather here, these scams are sure to be on the increase. If someone comes to your house and wants to repave your driveway, fix your roof, trim your trees ... beware. Never hire anyone who just shows up at your door.

Utility cutoff: You get a phone call from the local power company, or so you think. The caller says your power is about to be cut off for nonpayment of your bill ... unless you pay right away by giving out your bank information.

IRS rebate checks: If you don't have your check yet and are expecting one, don't fall for the scams that promise to get it for you faster. What they want is your personal information.

Loan fees: Beware lenders that require you to pay in advance for loans for mortgage refinance, debt consolidation or business. You may be told that the loan is "guaranteed" after you pay your advance fees, often in the form of a wire transfer to an overseas account.

Work at home: These scams have gone on for decades, and the scammers are the only ones making money. You'll be asked to pay in advance for your supplies, and you won't hear from them again.

Lottery: You're told you've won something and need to send a "processing fee" before the funds can be distributed. You never receive anything.

To keep up with the latest scams, go to www.pueblo.gsa.gov and scroll down to click on Scams/Fraud. Be sure to look at Computers and see the National Consumers League Top Ten scams.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Workers with big egos sometimes do make big contributions

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: Have you ever figured out how people with a reputation for being difficult, high-strung and generally egomaniacs move up the ladder? Some, I realize, have highly specialized and difficult-to-obtain skills, but others?

A: It's because those same personality traits can frequently serve you well in business—even as they make someone unpleasant to work with.

Are these "difficult" people skilled negotiators on behalf of the company? Do they take on high-profile (and high-earning) legal cases that no one else in their right mind would tackle? Do they win deep price concessions from vendors? Do they post the top sales numbers month after month? Do they motivate the people they supervise to succeed? (Yep, it counts even if they motivate through fear and anxiety, not loyalty.) Are they unsentimental enough to make the tough decisions needed to keep a company afloat in hard times? If the answers to those or similar questions are yes, you have your answer.

Of course, if the impossible person in question isn't even competent, you could be looking at an unfortunate result of nepotism or favoritism.

■■■

Q: A person I work with is leaving her job, and I would like to be a candidate for that position. I told my boss, and I told the boss of the new job. In the meantime, I am searching for jobs outside of the organization. Is this OK? Or should I wait until I have definitive word on whether I got accepted for the new position before conducting a job search outside?

A: Applying for a job isn't a commitment to take it. So you are free to continue your search outside the company. You can even go on interviews with outside suitors, guilt-free. It's not as if you are guaranteed the internal job, and if you're anxious to move on to a new job, there's no reason to put your search on hold. These days, you can't take offers from any potential employer for granted.

Be cautious, however, in accepting an offer inside the company if you don't really want to stay. What will you do if you are hired for the internal position but are offered a job outside just two weeks later? Or two months? Do you plan to continue your job search if you get this internal gig? Do you want to move up at this organization, or would you rather leave?

■■■

Q: I have submitted my resume to several employers since posting it on washingtonpost.com and have not received acknowledgment from the employer or an interview. Is this a good venue for seeking employment?

A: It is, but it shouldn't be your only venue. And I don't just mean that you need to branch out to rival Web sites.

The ads you see are the tip of the iceberg in terms of the jobs out there. So go ahead and apply for them, but most of your time should be spent networking. If you want to work somewhere, you don't have to wait for an ad to pop up.

Research the organization and brainstorm ways to make connections there. Perhaps you have a friend or neighbor who works there? Or a friend of a friend? Those connections can lead to a job offer before thousands of people have time to submit their resume online.

And don't overlook the ads for job fairs. Such gatherings can be a great way to meet recruiters and others. Even in the Internet age, hiring people is still a face-to-face process.

When your accident comes along on an interview

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: I went kayaking this weekend, took a nasty spill and wound up with a black eye ... (and) I have a job interview Monday. Any suggestions on how to handle this? Makeup will only make it look as if I'm covering up a black eye. I am tempted to just lay it out there for them right away. I'm thinking they will skirt around it in case this is the result of an abusive husband/boyfriend.

A: I don't think you should try to hide it. If played well, this has the making of a memorable interview story.

I would definitely tell the employer upfront the story behind the black eye, but do it with some delicacy. You don't want to say, "I didn't want you to think my husband beats me or anything!" There's always a chance that someone you're interviewing with is a victim of domestic violence. So be upfront but sensitive.

A: Agreed. Say how you got it—not how you didn't.

A: One caveat for the black-eyed kayaker: You might want to be careful talking about how you got it because if you're hurt doing something on your own and have to take off time, they might not be pleased.

A: It's kayaking, not skydiving. And it's not like she's using this as an excuse to skip the interview, which I think speaks volumes to the likelihood of whether she would use her minor hobby-related injuries as an excuse to miss work.

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Nation

4 dead, 40 hurt as tornado hits scouts camp

BLENCOE, Iowa (AP) -- A tornado tore through a Boy Scout camp in the remote hills of western Iowa on Wednesday, killing at least four people and injuring 40, and setting off a frantic search to reach others in the piles of debris and downed trees.

Most of the injured had been on a hike when the tornado struck, authorities said, leaving them without protection from the deadly winds.

A search and rescue team deployed after the 7 p.m. twister had to cut their way through branches during a lightning storm to reach the camp where the 93 boys, ages 13 to 18, and 25 staff members were attending a weeklong leadership training camp.

"All of the buildings are gone; most of the tents are gone; most of the trees are destroyed," Lloyd Roitstein, president of the Boy Scouts of Mid-America Council, told CNN. "You've got 1,800 acres of property that are destroyed right now."

AP

A Fulda First Responder tends to Terri Stevens at her Fulda, Minn. farm shortly after a tornado ripped the roof from her home on Wednesday, June 11, 2008.

Iowa Gov. Chet Culver said three people were unaccounted for, but a spokesman for the rescuers, Russ Lawrenson, said all the victims had been found.

The weather service had issued two warnings minutes before the tornado hit, Culver said, but it wasn't clear whether the camp had sirens.

"Based on what we were seeing on radar it looked like it could have been a very powerful tornado," said Daniel Nietfeld with the National Weather Service.

At least 40 people who were injured in the storm were being taken to area hospitals, said Iowa Homeland Security spokeswoman Julie Tack. Most of the kids who were hurt were out on a hike when the tornado hit, said Lawrenson, of the Mondamin Fire Department.

Burgess Health Center in Onawa, Iowa, had treated 19 people from the camp and were warned to expect a bus carrying up to 45 more with cuts and bruises, said spokeswoman Beth Frangedakis.

The ranch about 40 miles north of Omaha, Neb., includes hiking trails through narrow valleys and over steep hills, a 15-acre lake and a rifle range.

The camp was being secured by the National Guard and police.

Gayle Jessen of Fremont, Neb., said her 19-year-old son Zach is a staff leader at the camp. He called his parents to say he had a bruise on an arm and was being treated at a hospital.

"I'm so relieved my son is OK," Jessen said. She said her husband was headed to the hospital to pick up their son.

Lawrenson said parents will be reunited with their children at a community center in nearby Little Sioux.

Slaying of 2 girls stuns Oklahoma town

WELEETKA, Okla. (AP)—Maybe they stumbled onto a crime in progress. Perhaps they were ambushed by "drunks and dopeheads." Or maybe it was some kind of thrill killing.

The slayings of two girls—ages 11 and 13—who were shot along a rural back road have baffled investigators and struck fear into townspeople, who are now afraid to let their children out of their sight.

"Still no motive, and I hate to say that," Ben Rosser, an agent with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, said Wednesday. "This could be some kind of random thrill killing, it could be an attempted abduction, it could be somebody that just for whatever reason had a personal motive, maybe mistaken identity or possibly they did interrupt something down near the bridge. We just don't know."

AP

In this photo provided by Graham Public School in Weleetka, Okla., Skyla Whitaker is pictured in an undated photo.

Taylor Paschal-Placker, 13, and Skyla Whitaker, 11, were killed Sunday afternoon near a bridge. Both had been shot in the head and chest.

The brutality has rattled this working-class community of 1,000, situated 70 miles south of Tulsa.

Weleetka has long been the type of place folks moved to to escape many of the evils of the world. But townspeople said methamphetamine use—a particular scourge in small-town Oklahoma and elsewhere in the nation's heartland—has gotten bad around here, and crime is up.

"You think you're safe anywhere, but you're not. All the thugs is moving out here, too," said Skyla's grandfather, Jimmie Farrow. "It's a whole new ballgame."

Investigators said two guns were used in the killings, which suggests there were two gunmen. But beyond that, locals have been left to guess who did it and why.

"I could walk down Main Street in Weleetka and maybe pass the individual and I wouldn't know it right now," Rosser said. He added: "This should just hit to the very core of America. I just think two little girls can't go walking down a country lane road in this day and age. It's pretty sad."

Authorities are examining tire tracks, shell casings, bullets and shoeprints for any possible leads. They said they suspect a local person was involved because the killings occurred in such an isolated area. Rosser said that nothing is being ruled out but that there is no indication family or friends were involved.

Full autopsy results have not been released, but investigators said it appears the girls were not molested. They noted the youngsters were clothed and the bodies were found only about a half-hour after the girls began walking.

FDA still hunting source of salmonella in tomatoes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal health officials haven't yet traced the source of salmonella-tainted tomatoes but, amid an outcry from farmers, are clearing innocent crops as fast as possible.

"We're getting very close" to identifying the outbreak's source, Dr. David Acheson of the Food and Drug Administration told reporters Wednesday.

The outbreak, which has sickened 167 people in 17 states since April, is not over even though it has been two weeks since the last confirmed case of a person falling ill, said Dr. Ian Williams of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's because state and local health departments still are investigating possibly more recent infections.

The FDA has warned consumers against eating certain raw tomatoes: red plum, red Roma or round. Grape and cherry tomatoes or tomatoes still attached to the vine aren't linked to the illnesses.

Also ruled safe are tomatoes from more than 30 states or countries, including part but not all of major producer Florida, where some counties have been cleared but not others. The FDA can rule out as suspects farms and distributors that weren't harvesting or selling when the outbreak began. It is directing consumers to its Web site—http://www.fda.gov—for updated lists of safe regions.

Johnson resigns from Obama's VP vetting team

WASHINGTON (AP)—A former CEO leading Barack Obama's search for a vice presidential candidate resigned abruptly Wednesday after questions about his home mortgage deals became a distraction for a candidate who argues he's not influenced by special interests.

Jim Johnson's resignation came a day after Obama defended Johnson and dismissed the Republican criticism of him.

"I am not vetting my V.P. search committee for their mortgages," Obama said Tuesday.

He accepted Johnson's resignation on Wednesday, leaving the search at least temporarily in the hands of two other prominent Democratic attorneys who also had been scouting candidates—former Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder and Caroline Kennedy.

"Jim did not want to distract in any way from the very important task of gathering information about my vice presidential nominee, so he has made a decision to step aside that I accept," Obama said. "We have a very good selection process under way, and I am confident that it will produce a number of highly qualified candidates for me to choose from in the weeks ahead."

Johnson

Johnson, the former chairman of mortgage lender Fannie Mae, came under fire from GOP candidate John McCain and the Republican Party after The Wall Street Journal reported last Saturday that Johnson got mortgages with help from the CEO of Countrywide Financial Corp.

McCain had accused Obama of hypocrisy for speaking out against Countrywide's role in the subprime mortgage crisis.

Obama's campaign declined to say whether he would replace Johnson, who also led the vice presidential search effort for Democratic nominee John Kerry in 2004 and Walter Mondale in 1984. Obama said he was grateful for Johnson's service.

Johnson's resignation may allow Obama to move ahead with the search process without the criticism surrounding him, but it also could make it appear that the campaign quickly caved under pressure. The resignation touched off a series of accusations between the two campaigns about which candidate has more tainted advisers and better judgment about who to surround himself with.

Obama's campaign has had varying responses when controversy has focused on those around him. Foreign policy adviser Samantha Power left within hours of calling Hillary Rodham Clinton a "monster."

Fed. judge had sexual images on Web site

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge overseeing an obscenity trial exploring the extreme fringe of pornography posted explicit photos and videos on his personal Web site, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Alex Kozinski, chief judge of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, said he thought the material on his Web site couldn't be seen by the public, the Los Angeles Times reported on its Web site. The images included a video of a "half-dressed man cavorting with a sexually aroused farm animal," the newspaper reported.

Kozinski, who has since blocked public access to the site, said he didn't believe the images were obscene.

"Is it prurient? I don't know what to tell you," he told the newspaper. "I think it's odd and interesting. It's part of life."

The revelation about Kozinski came as opening statements were under way in the trial of Ira Isaacs, a businessman accused of breaking U.S. obscenity laws by distributing pornographic movies that depict extreme fetishes, including bestiality.

Kozinski, 57, was assigned to oversee the trial in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles under a program in which appellate judges occasionally handle criminal trials at the district court level.

"I have no comment on the merits of the story," Kozinski told trial attorneys, without jurors present, when they reconvened Wednesday afternoon at a 9th Circuit courthouse conference room in Pasadena.

Kozinski said he would consider any motion if either side wanted to take him off the case.

'Capitol Hill computers hacked by Chinese'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Multiple congressional computers have been hacked by people working from inside China, lawmakers said Wednesday, suggesting the Chinese were seeking lists of dissidents.

Two congressmen, both longtime critics of Beijing's record on human rights, said the compromised computers contained information about political dissidents from around the world. One of the lawmakers said he'd been discouraged from disclosing the computer attacks by other U.S. officials.

Virginia Rep. Frank Wolf said four of his computers were compromised, beginning in 2006. New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith, a senior Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said two of his computers were attacked, in December 2006 and March 2007.

Wolf said that following one of the attacks, a car with license plates belonging to Chinese officials went to the home of a dissident in Fairfax County, Va., outside Washington and photographed it.

During the same time period, The House International Relations Committee—now known as the House Foreign Affairs Committee—was targeted at least once by someone working inside China, said committee spokeswoman Lynne Weil.

Wednesday's disclosures came as U.S. authorities continued to investigate whether Chinese officials secretly copied the contents of a government laptop computer during a visit to China by Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez and used the information to try to hack into Commerce Department computers.

The Pentagon last month acknowledged at a closed House Intelligence committee meeting that its vast computer network is scanned or attacked by outsiders more than 300 million times each day.

Wolf said the FBI had told him that computers of other House members and at least one House committee had been accessed by sources working from inside China. The Virginia Republican suggested that Senate computers could have been attacked as well.

He said the hacking of computers in his Capitol Hill office began in August 2006, that he had known about it for a long time and that he had been discouraged from disclosing it by people in the U.S. government he refused to identify.

"The problem has been that no one wants to talk about this issue," he said. "Every time I've started to do something I've been told 'You can't do this.' A lot of people have made it very, very difficult."

The FBI and the White House declined to comment.

The Bush administration has been increasingly reluctant publicly to discuss or acknowledge cyber attacks, especially ones traced to China.

In the Senate, the office of Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who chairs the Senate's subcommittee on humanitarian issues, asked the sergeant at arms to investigate whether Senate computers have been compromised.

Wolf said the first computer hacked in his office belonged to the staffer who works on human rights cases and that others included the machines of Wolf's chief of staff and legislative director.

"They knew which ones to get," said Dan Scandling, who currently is on leave of absence from his job as Wolf's chief of staff. "It was a very sophisticated operation," he said. "The FBI verified that it had been done."

Smith said the attacks on his office computers were "very much an orchestrated effort."

He said that after the first intrusion in December 2006, "that was the last time" his office put the names of dissidents on its computers.

In Beijing, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs had no immediate comment on the allegations by Wolf and Smith.

Last week, China denied the accusations regarding Gutierrez's laptop and the alleged effort to hack Commerce Department computers.

Wolf said he was introducing a House resolution that would help ensure protection for all House computers and information systems.

ACROSS THE NATION

Calif. polygamist convicted of torturing 19 kids

MURRIETA, Calif. (AP)—A polygamist was convicted Wednesday of charges that he starved, tortured and abused two of his wives and many of his 19 children and stepchildren. A Riverside County jury found Mansa Musa Muhummed guilty on 25 counts, including torturing seven of the children, abusing 12 of them and falsely imprisoning the wives. Muhummed, 55, shook his head as the verdict was read, prosecutor Julie Baldwin said. Muhummed could spend the rest of his life in prison. His wives and children were not present in court for the verdict but they plan to attend sentencing, which is scheduled for Aug. 1, Baldwin said. Muhummed, whose birth name was Richard Boddie, told authorities that his Muslim faith gave him the right to take multiple wives. He was arrested in 1999 after one of his wives, Laura Cowan, slipped a 13-page letter to a postal service worker describing the abuse.

Marine expelled, another punished over puppy video

HONOLULU (AP)—The Marine Corps on Wednesday said it was expelling one Marine and disciplining another for their roles in a video showing a Marine throwing a puppy off a cliff while on patrol in Iraq. The 17-second video posted on YouTube drew sharp condemnation from animal rights groups when it came to light in March. The clip shows two Marines joking before one hurls the puppy into a rocky gully. A yelping sound is heard as it flips through the air. "That's mean. That's mean, Motari," an off-camera Marine is heard telling the Marine who tossed the black and white dog. The off-camera Marine snickered slightly afterward. Lance Cpl. David Motari, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment at Kaneohe Bay, is "being processed for separation" from the Marine Corps, the Marine Corps said in a news release. He also received unspecified "non-judicial punishment."

Texas executes 1st inmate since injection lull

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A remorseful convicted killer was executed Wednesday night for raping and killing a Dallas woman 17 years ago, the first prisoner in nine months to be put to death in the nation's most active capital punishment state. Karl Eugene Chamberlain, with a smile on his face, told relatives of his victim, Felecia Prechtl that he wished he "could die more than once." Chamberlain lived upstairs in the same apartment complex as his victim. In 1991, he knocked on Prechtl's door and asked to borrow some sugar. After she filled the request, he returned with a rifle and the roll of duct tape, attacked the single mother and shot her in the head. Her son, then 5, found her body.

House overwhelmingly passes Amtrak funding bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—A nearly $15 billion Amtrak bill passed the House Wednesday as lawmakers rallied around an alternative for travelers saddled with soaring gas prices. The bipartisan bill, which passed by a veto-proof margin of 311-104, would authorize funding for the national passenger railroad over the next five years. Some of the money would go to a program of matching grants to help states set up or expand rail service. Besides the $14.9 billion provided for Amtrak and intercity rail, an amendment to the bill would authorize $1.5 billion for Washington's Metro transit system over the next 10 years. The White House has threatened a veto, saying the bill doesn't hold Amtrak accountable for its spending.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan, China agree to set up offices

BEIJING (AP)—Representatives of Taiwan and China have agreed to set up permanent offices in each other's territory to handle contacts through their quasi-official negotiating bodies. A spokeswoman from Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation says the agreement was reached during talks between the two sides Thursday morning in Beijing. The spokeswoman, speaking on routine condition of anonymity, says a formal announcement will be made later. The agreement comes on the first day of talks between the foundation and its mainland counterpart, marking the first formal talks between the sides in almost a decade and aiming to forge an agreement on expanded charter flights between the sides that have had no scheduled transport links between them in 59 years.

Pakistan, US differ over deadly border airstrike

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's army and the U.S. military gave widely differing accounts Wednesday of a clash on the Afghan border that left 11 Pakistani troops dead. While their forces were just a few hundred yards apart, a huge gulf existed in their views of events—underscoring the mutual suspicion between two uneasy allies in the war against international terrorism. The alliance is unpopular among Pakistanis, whose newly elected civilian government is negotiating with some militants in hopes of curbing a surge in violence. Western officials fear peace deals could give more space for Taliban and al-Qaida militants to operate. There was no way to independently check on what happened in the fighting Tuesday night on the ill-defined border between Pakistan's Mohmand tribal agency and Afghanistan's Kunar province.

SKorea's leader vows new start amid US beef crisis

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Humbled by weeks of anti-government protests, South Korea's president said Wednesday his administration would seek to make a new start as one of his ministers again rejected calls to renegotiate a U.S. beef deal that helped spark the rallies. Lee Myung-bak took office in February, but his popularity sank over botched political appointments and privatization plans. An April deal to resume U.S. beef imports caused simmering public anger to boil over due to a perception that he failed to consult the public. Weeks of rallies culminated in a gathering of some 80,000 people Tuesday in Seoul, the largest protest so far, where barricades of shipping containers blocked crowds from marching to the presidential Blue House.

UN: 10,000 pregnant women need care in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Ten thousand pregnant cyclone survivors are in urgent need of proper care in Myanmar, a U.N. expert said Wednesday, as relief agencies again raised concerns about the junta's willingness to accept foreign aid. Pregnancy and childbirth were already relatively risky before Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar, one of Asia's poorest countries, said William A. Ryan, a spokesman for the U.N. Population Fund. More than 100 women give birth every day in the area affected by the cyclone, he told reporters in Bangkok, Thailand. Ryan said that wrecked health facilities should be rebuilt and there is also a need for trained midwives.

Nepal's deposed king leaves palace forever

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's deposed king gave up his crown of peacock feathers, yak hair and jewels on Wednesday and left his palace forever.

Former King Gyanendra's departure closed the final chapter on the world's last Hindu monarchy, but a remnant stayed behind: the 94-year-old mistress of the deposed monarch's grandfather, who died more than a half-century ago.

Few Nepalis knew of the mysterious elderly woman's existence until authorities announced Wednesday that she would be allowed to continue living in the palace. The reason: the youngest mistress of King Tribhuwan, who ruled the Himalayan kingdom from 1911 until his death in 1955, has no house to move to or relatives to take her in.

Little else will remain, however, of a dynasty that united Nepal and reigned for 239 years. The palace—a pink concrete monstrosity—will be turned into a museum. But there's little likelihood it will celebrate a monarchy that Nepal's new government of former communist rebels fought to overthrow.

AP

Nepal's deposed King Gyanendra, half seen in back seat, and Queen Komal, unseen, leaves the Narayanhiti palace in Kathmandu, Nepal, Wednesday, June 11, 2008.

Gyanendra is to live as something akin to an ordinary citizen, albeit an incredibly wealthy one, protected by police at a one-time summer palace on a forested hill on the outskirts of Katmandu.

"I have no intention or thoughts to leave the country," Gyanendra said hours before departing, his first public comments in the months since it became apparent he was going to lose his crown. "I will stay in the country to help establish peace."

The vast majority of Nepalis have made it clear they are pleased to see the monarchy end. While Gyanendra's throne was formally abolished last month, his departure Wednesday carries great significance in a nation ruled by Shah dynasty monarchs for more than two centuries.

The former king and his wife pulled out of the palace gates in an armored black Mercedes at about 8:45 p.m., followed by a police and army escort. A few loyalist onlookers shouted for Gyanendra to stay on the throne, but most of the several hundred people gathered were happy to see him go.

"I came to see the end of a dark era," said Gopal Shakya, a shopkeeper in Katmandu who watched the king leave the palace. "Tomorrow it will be a brand new beginning for Nepal."

China refugees move again 1 month after quake

MIANYANG, China (AP)—As China marked Thursday's one-month anniversary of its deadly earthquake, some weary survivors were once again on the move, setting up tents and shelters on city sidewalks away from a threatened flood.

Soldiers in Mianyang, the largest urban area directly under threat from the Tangjiashan quake-formed lake, helped survivors move their belongings yet again while vehicles drove by loaded with plastic stools and bottled water.

Cutting through the city, the Fu River was running high and fast, and life remained far from normal. Many residents continue to sleep outdoors because of damaged homes or fear of aftershocks from the May 12 disaster that jolted Sichuan province and neighboring regions. Many businesses were closed, some with sandbags stacked at their entrances.

Although they remained homeless, residents said conditions near their former dwellings were far superior to those in the hastily erected camps in the hills where some had been living for almost two weeks because of flood fears.

"Life wasn't so good up there. When it rained, the water didn't drain and sometimes it reached up to our ankles," said street sweeper Zhao Shuping, 46, who sought shelter on higher ground on June 2.

Authorities had evacuated 250,000 people near the lake, which formed when landslides blocked a river above the destroyed town of Beichuan. It was the largest of 30 lakes created by the quake.

In Beijing, China showcased its massive aid effort, with soldiers, medical workers and politicians gathering in the Great Hall of the People on Wednesday to hear emotional testimonials about its success.

The nationally televised event featured heroes from the quake—a teacher from devastated Beichuan, a volunteer nurse from southern Guangdong, a military commander who led troops on a 31-hour march to reach the epicenter.

ABS-CBN confirms Drilon, two others kidnapped for ransom

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' largest TV network confirmed Wednesday that a popular news anchor and two other journalists have been kidnapped in a southern stronghold of al-Qaida-linked militants.

ABS-CBN television condemned the kidnapping of news anchor Ces Drilon and crewmen Jimmy Encarnacion and Angelo Valderama as an "unconscionable attack against journalists."

"ABS-CBN news will abide by its policy not to pay ransom because this would embolden kidnap for ransom groups to abduct other journalists, putting more lives at risk," said the network, which initially imposed a news blackout on the abductions for the hostages' safety.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's government backed the no-ransom policy, saying in a statement it did not want kidnappings to become "an industry."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Jolo's governor, Sakur Tan, has informed Arroyo's office that unidentified emissaries have been sent to negotiate with the kidnappers.

A regional police commander, Chief Superintendent Joel Goltiao, said Drilon and her crewmen were intercepted Sunday in Jolo island's Maimbung township by gunmen believed to be led by Abu Sayyaf commander Albader Parad and Gaifur Jumdail, who belongs to another armed group.

Afghans uncover 260 tons of hashish in record bust

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan counternarcotics officials said Wednesday that they uncovered 260 tons of hashish hidden in 6-foot-deep trenches in southern Afghanistan in what one DEA official said appears to be the world's biggest drug bust.

The hashish, found in the southern province of Kandahar on Monday, was worth more than $400 million and would have netted the Taliban about $14 million in profits, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said.

The hashish weighed as much as 30 double-decker London buses, ISAF said. The drugs were burned on site. Hashish is a concentrated form of marijuana.

"The Afghan National Police Special Task Force has made a huge step forward in proving its capability in curbing the tide of illegal drug trade in this country," U.S. Gen. David McKiernan, the commander of ISAF, said in a statement.

AP

In this undated photo released by Afghan Interior ministry shows a part of the seized sacks of hashish on fire after the Afghan National Police Special Task Force found them in a hidden stock in the southern province of Kandahar south of Kabul, Afghanistan.

"With this single find, they have seriously crippled the Taliban's ability to purchase weapons that threaten the safety and security of the Afghan people and the region."

The spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, Garrison Courtney, said the drug bust appears to be the world's largest in terms of weight. He called the takedown "pretty huge."

"I can't think of any other time I've ever heard of that large of an amount in one hit," he said.

Afghanistan's biggest drug problem is not hashish but opium. The country produced 9,000 tons last year, enough to make over 880 tons of heroin—93 percent of the world's supply.

But officials have increased warnings that farmers who no longer grow opium poppies because of successful eradication programs have turned their fields to cannabis, the plant used to produce hashish and marijuana, giving the country a second drug problem to contend with.

World

Bush doesn't rule out military strike in Iran

MESEBERG, Germany (AP)—President Bush on Wednesday raised the possibility of a military strike to thwart Tehran's presumed nuclear weapons ambitions, speaking aggressively even as he admitted having been unwise to have done so previously about Iraq.

■ ■ ■

SHAHR-E-KORD, Iran (AP)—Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called President Bush a "wicked man" Wednesday. Addressing thousands of people in this central city, he said Bush had set out to damage Iran but failed to halt its nuclear program and would not succeed in his goal of attacking the Islamic republic.

"This wicked man desires to harm the Iranian nation. (Bush) made plans, moved into Afghanistan and then Iraq, and announced that Iran was the third target," Ahmadinejad said.

"I tell him ... your era has come to an end. With the grace of God, you won't be able to harm even one centimeter of the sacred land of Iran."

■ ■ ■

Bush's host in two days of meetings at a baroque castle, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, made clear her views on the saber-rattling—however subtle—without directly countering her guest. "I very clearly pin my hopes on diplomatic efforts," Merkel said, reflecting the deeply held European opinion that military action against Iran is nearly unthinkable.

Merkel joined Bush in urging further sanctions against Iran if it fails to suspend its uranium enrichment program.

Iran's leader weighed in, too. Speaking before thousands in the central Iranian city of Shahr-e-Kord, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Bush "won't be able to harm even one centimeter of the sacred land of Iran" and promised continued defiance over Iran's nuclear activities. Iran says it is enriching uranium to generate electricity, not build a bomb—a claim the West doubts is true.

"In the past two, three years, they employed all their might, resorted to propaganda ... and sanctions," Ahmadinejad said. "If the enemy thinks they can break the Iranian nation with pressure, they are wrong."

Bush has alternated lately between slightly more conciliatory and slightly more forceful language on Iran.

Ancient cave linked to early Christians in Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Archaeologists in Jordan have discovered a cave underneath one of the world's oldest churches and say it may have been an even more ancient site of Christian worship. But outside experts expressed caution about the claim.

Archaeologist Abdel-Qader al-Housan, head of the Rihab Center for Archaeological Studies, said this week that the cave was unearthed in the northern Jordanian city of Rihab after three months of excavation and shows evidence of early Christian rituals.

The cave is under St. George's Church, which some believe was built in the year 230, though the date is widely disputed. That would make it one of the oldest churches in the world, along with one unearthed in the Jordanian southern port of Aqaba in 1998 and another in Israel discovered in 2005.

Al-Housan said there was evidence that the underground cave was used as a church by 70 disciples of Jesus in the first century after Christ's death, which would make it the oldest Christian site of worship in the world.

AP

A worker leaves a cave under Saint George's Church in Rihab, Mafraq, Jordan (70 km to the east of Amman) Wednesday June 11, 2008.

He described a circular worship area with stone seats separated from a living area that had a long tunnel leading to a source of water. He said the early Christians hid there from persecution.

A mosaic inscription on the floor of the later church of St. George above refers to "the 70 beloved by God and the divine" who founded the worship there.

S. Thomas Parker, a historian at North Carolina State University who led the team that discovered the church in Aqaba, said that while he hadn't seen the Rihab site, any such claim should be taken with a degree of caution.

Secret al-Qaida, Iraq files are found on British train

LONDON (AP)—Secret government documents on al-Qaida and Iraq were left on a commuter train, prompting a major police investigation into the latest in a series of embarrassing security breaches, British officials said Wednesday.

The documents belonged to a senior intelligence official in the Cabinet office and were found by a passenger on a London commuter train Tuesday. The envelope was then passed to the British Broadcasting Corp.

Seven pages stamped "UK Top Secret" included the latest government intelligence assessment on al-Qaida and Iraq's security forces, the BBC said. The documents were also stamped "for UK/US/Canadian and Australian eyes only." The first page was dated June 5, the BBC reported.

Two of the assessments were made by the British government's Joint Intelligence Committee. The report on Iraq was commissioned by the Ministry of Defence. The al-Qaida report was commissioned by the Foreign and the Home Offices.

The assessments often include intelligence material gathered from agents on the ground.

"Two documents which are marked as secret were left on a train and have subsequently been handed to the BBC," according to a Cabinet office spokesman who spoke on condition of anonymity in accordance with government policy for civil servants.

The intelligence official was still working at the Cabinet office, pending a police investigation.

HONDA

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The 2008 CR-V

22 EST. MPG

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24 EST. MPG

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KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
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Sportage	#77354358	Jade	$17,695.00
Sorento	#65602982	Green	$18,995.00

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Ranger~~	~~#7PA3111~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,990.00~~
Fusion	#7R114053	White	$19,990.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	$19,990.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	$21,990.00

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Cops: Teen uses stolen card, fills out application

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP)—Police say a Dover, New Hampshire, teen suspected of using a stolen credit card at a store left a pretty good clue to his identity by filling out a job application at the same store. Fandi Pradipta, 18, pleaded guilty Tuesday to using a stolen card at a store in the Fox Run Mall in Newington. Police said Pradipta made the investigation easier because he had been at the home of the card owner the day before it was reported stolen, then after using the card, he filled out a complete job application—name, address, telephone number. He was fined and given a suspended sentence.

Man accused of drunken driving twice in 2 hours

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP)—A Sheboygan man is behind bars after being arrested twice for drunken driving within two hours early Tuesday. Police say the 24-year-old driver was stopped by an officer about 1:50 a.m. after he was spotted driving the wrong way on a one-way street in Sheboygan. The man was arrested, cited for driving drunk and released to his brother about 3 a.m. at the police station. Police say about 40 minutes later, an officer saw the same man, driving the same vehicle at 20 mph over the 30-mph speed limit. He was pulled over and cited again for operating while intoxicated. This time he was taken to the Sheboygan County Detention Center.

LA reservoir covered with balls to protect water

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of shimmering black plastic balls were dumped into one of the city's last open-air reservoirs to prevent a sunlight-fueled chemical reaction that can harm the water supply. Workers on Monday unleashed 400,000 of the hollow, 4-inch "shade balls" down a slope to cover the surface of the Ivanhoe Reservoir, which provides water to parts of downtown, central and south Los Angeles. Earlier this year, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power drained two of its six remaining open-air reservoirs because a rare sunlight-and-chlorine reaction tainted the water with bromate, a cancer-causing chemical. The amounts were small and didn't violate federal water regulations, but the water was dumped as a precaution. The plastic spheres are "a cost effective method of creating shade without elaborate construction, parts, labor or maintenance," the department said in a statement. The balls are a temporary fix while the city completes an underground water storage project to replace the open-air reservoirs within several years.

Cambodian jet abandoned in Vietnam for over a year

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A Cambodian commercial jet has been sitting at a Vietnamese airport for more than a year after being grounded for a technical problem and abandoned, an official said Wednesday. The Royal Khmer Airlines plane has been parked on the tarmac at Hanoi's international airport since early May 2007, said Vo Huy Cuong, head of the Vietnam Civil Aviation Administration's Air Transportation Department. The plane was abandoned only a month after Royal Khmer Airlines received its license to operate flights between the Cambodian city of Siem Riep, home to the world famous Angkor Wat temples, and Hanoi. The Boeing 727 had operated only a few flights when it was grounded, Cuong said. Cambodian aviation authorities removed the 30-year-old plane from its registration in August, he said. Airline officials have promised Vietnamese authorities they will fix the problem and pay the parking fees, Cuong said. He said this was the first time Vietnamese aviation officials had been faced with an abandoned aircraft.

Single-horned 'unicorn' deer found in Italy

ROME (AP)—A deer with a single horn in the center of its head—much like the fabled, mythical unicorn—has been spotted in a nature preserve in Italy, park officials said Wednesday.

"This is fantasy becoming reality," Gilberto Tozzi, director of the Center of Natural Sciences in Prato, told The Associated Press. "The unicorn has always been a mythological animal."

The 1-year-old Roe Deer—nicknamed "Unicorn"—was born in captivity in the research center's park in the Tuscan town of Prato, near Florence, Tozzi said.

He is believed to have been born with a genetic flaw; his twin has two horns.

Calling it the first time he has seen such a case, Tozzi said such anomalies among deer may have inspired the myth of the unicorn.

The unicorn, a horse-like creature with magical healing powers, has appeared in legends and stories throughout history, from ancient and medieval texts to the adventures of Harry Potter.

"This shows that even in past times, there could have been animals with this anomaly," he said by telephone. "It's not like they dreamed it up."

Single-horned deer are rare but not unheard of—but even more unusual is the central positioning of the horn, experts said.

"Generally, the horn is on one side (of the head) rather than being at the center. This looks like a complex case," said Fulvio Fraticelli, scientific director of Rome's zoo. He said the position of the horn could also be the result of a trauma early in the animal's life.

Other mammals are believed to contribute to the myth of the unicorn, including the narwhal, a whale with a long, spiraling tusk.

AP

This undated photo provided by the Center of Natural Sciences in Prato, Italy, Wednesday, June 11, 2008, shows a deer with a single horn in the center of its head.

Nail-in-skull survivor: 'It never really hurt'

SHAWNEE, Kan. (AP)—George Chandler says he didn't know a 2 1/2-inch nail was driven into his skull until his buddy spotted it stuck through his cap. Chandler said he felt only a sting. "It never did really what you call hurt," the Shawnee man said Wednesday on NBC's "Today."

Chandler said his friend Phil Kern was using a nail gun to mount lattice on Chandler's deck when a hose on the powerful tool became caught.

Chandler said he stood up just as Kern tried to free the gun and it discharged. At first, they couldn't locate the nail. But then Kern saw it, he ordered Chandler to sit down while he called 911.

An emergency room doctor tried unsuccessfully to remove the nail with a pair of pliers.

"He looked at me and said, 'I need a claw hammer,'" Chandler recalled. "I thought, 'Ah, he's just teasing.'"

So the doctor borrowed a claw hammer from a worker to finish the job and sent Chandler home with a few stitches.

"He got a screwdriver at the same time, and he took the screwdriver and pried the nail up a little bit and got the claw hammer," Chandler said.

Artist claims record with quarter-mile drawing

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—He forgot to eat, sleep or even drink water. But Mexican artist Filemon Trevino accomplished his lifelong dream of entering the Guinness Book of World Records.

In a news conference Wednesday, Trevino presented a Guinness certificate declaring his quarter-mile-long pencil drawing as the world's largest.

The Monterrey artist said he spent 6,000 hours and used 800 pencils to complete his representation of the heart and circulatory system, with symbols including doves, geometric shapes and hundreds of yards of intertwined tubes.

He says breaking the record became an obsession that led him to neglect his health.

He was hospitalized seven times for dehydration, heart and kidney problems and fainting spells, all attributed to long hours spent drawing in a hot, stuffy room.

"I forgot to drink water," he said. "I didn't know anything about friends, my family or anything else in the world. I started to grow a beard and lost (35 pounds) 16 kilograms."

Trevino started the drawing in July 2004 and completed it in August 2005.

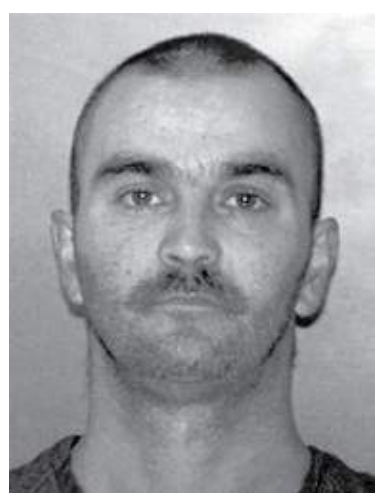
Pa. man walks 25 miles to court for DUI sentencing

CARLISLE, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man says he had one alternative when his brother didn't show up to give him a ride to court: start walking. Stephen Shoemaker of Shippensburg was scheduled to appear at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday for sentencing on a 2007 drunken-driving conviction.

Shoemaker, 33, doesn't have a car or driver's license. So he started walking to the Cumberland County Courthouse in Carlisle at dawn. He kept walking for about 25 miles in 90-plus-degree heat.

Shoemaker arrived about 3:30 p.m., after a detour to Carlisle Regional Medical Center where he was treated for dehydration. Judge Edward Guido had issued an arrest warrant when Shoemaker failed to appear. Instead he agreed to defer sentencing until July. Guido says he hesitated only because "That means he'll have to walk back to Shippensburg."

Deputy Public Defender Anthony Adams volunteered to give Shoemaker a ride home.



AP

This undated photo released by the Cumberland County Prison shows Stephen Shoemaker, 33 of Shippensburg, Pa.

Ape applicant vies for star on Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame have gone to the dogs, so why can't Cheeta the chimp get some love? The animal actor, whose credits include the 1967 comedy "Dr. Doolittle" and the "Tarzan" movies, is trying for the seventh time to get a sidewalk star and become the first monkey to get the honor. His handlers have launched an online petition to get supporters to urge the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to give him a star in 2009.

Each June, the Walk of Fame Committee picks from hundreds of nominations a list of inductees for the next year.

Cheeta's "inclusion on the Hollywood Walk of Fame will not only give recognition to one of the international, animal megastars of all time, but focus attention on his fellow primates in the wilds of Africa who now face extinction," the petition reads.

The petition notes that Cheeta's canine colleagues Lassie, and 1920s stars Rin Tin Tin and Strongheart are immortalized on the boulevard, along with fictional animals Kermit the Frog, Godzilla and Donald Duck.

"He's up against really big celebrities," Ana Martinez-Holler, a spokeswoman for the Chamber of Commerce said.

This year, Cheeta will be considered along with some 200 entertainers. The chamber usually chooses about 24 a year.

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$10.99

Scope Mouthwash 500ml.
$3.99

Suave Shampoo For Men
$3.59

La Bella Styling Gel 13oz.
$2.79 /ea.

Casio Hand Held Video Games
$9.49

Vivitar Binocular
$13.49

Vidal Sassoon Haircutting Kit
$21.99

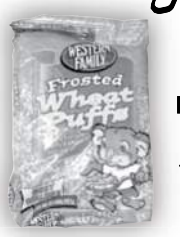
Mini Massager
$6.99

Rod & Reef Set
$19.99

Nylon Travel/ Sports Bag $4.99

TAG Body Spray or REFILL $4.79 /ea.

Supermarket



WF Assorted Bagged Cereal 32oz. Limit 3
$4.99

Joy Dishwashing Liquid 30oz. Limit 2
$1.99

New Zealand Boneless Beef Chuck
$1.99 /lb.

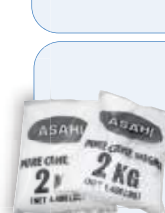
New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag
$14.99 /lb.

Whole Chicken Fryers 30 lbs./case
$39.99 /cs.

Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case
$17.99 /cs.

US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case
$16.99 /cs.

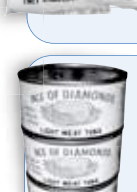
U.S. Beef Short Ribs
$2.59 /lb.



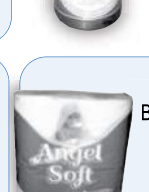
Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb.
$1.79 /ea.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter
$3.99 /ea.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$6.50 /cs.

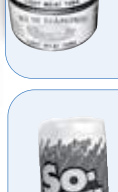


ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz.
99¢ /ea.

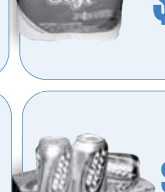


Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll
$1.99 /ea.

Zee Napkins 120 ct.
$1.99 /ea.



So Dri Paper Towel 1 Roll
$1.59 /ea.



Bud Family Beer Can
$24.98 /cs.
$12.49 12pk.

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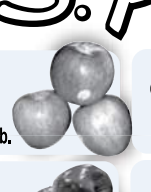
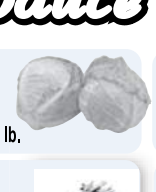
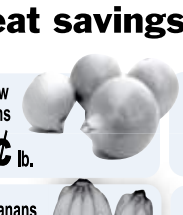


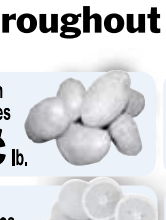
Gala Apples
$1.55 lb.



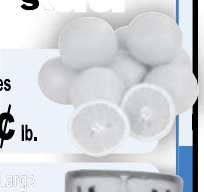
Green Cabbage
65¢ lb.



Yellow Onions
55¢ lb.



Brown Potatoes
69¢ lb.



Oranges
89¢ lb.

Fuji Apples
$1.35 lb.

Sleeved Cellery
$1.19 lb.

U.S. Banans
85¢ lb.

U.S. Pomellos
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Science & Technology

Don't let bad weather ruin your PC

By MIKE HIMOWITZ
(C) 2008, THE BALTIMORE SUN

The most serious threat to your computer and other electronics today might not be a virus or spyware attack. It's a summer thunderstorm—or more precisely, the sudden blackouts and power surges that lightning can cause.

If you haven't done anything to protect your equipment against this threat, it's time. And if you haven't checked the protective devices you bought a couple of years ago, it's time for that, too.

Here's why: Most of the components in your PC are designed to operate at 12 volts, 5 volts or even lower levels. Your computer's power supply (which sits just inside the case where the fan on the back can cool it) normally transforms the sizzling, 120-volt AC current in your house into the low-voltage, direct current that your PC needs.

The first line of protection for your PC (or high-definition television, or any expensive electronic gadget) is the surge suppressor.

The power supply can take care of small, normal fluctuations in line voltage. The problem is a sudden spike that can fry the insides of your machine. This is most likely to happen when the voltage returns after a power disruption—and it may happen repeatedly if the electricity comes back, goes out, and comes back again.

But surges can also happen in a home when a refrigerator, air conditioner or some other appliance on the same circuit cycles on. Surges are endemic in some office buildings.

The first line of protection for your PC (or high-definition television, or any expensive electronic gadget) is the surge suppressor. Usually sold in power strips with four or more outlets, these devices divert surges to the ground wire of your home or office. Better units also filter and condition the power to protect your equipment from smaller glitches and burps that can damage it over time.

You can buy a surge suppressor for as little as $8 or spend $75 and up, depending on bells and whistles. The first thing to look for is an Underwriter's Laboratories label certifying the device as a Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor compliant with UL Standard 1449.

Now consider three specifications, all of which should be detailed on the box or label. One is the amount of energy the suppressor can absorb, measured in joules. Look for a minimum of 700 joules. More is better. The next is the clamping voltage—the voltage at which the suppressor starts to do its job. Lower is better. Most experts recommend a maximum of 400 volts. Finally, look for the response time. Again, lower is better—preferably under 10 nanoseconds.

There are also two must-have indicator lights. One shows whether the strip is turned on (it's all too easy to kick the switch into the off position). The other shows whether you're still protected against surges. Every time it absorbs a surge, your strip dies a little—eventually it offers no protection at all. A glowing indicator lamp tells you the suppressor can still do its job. If you have an older suppressor, check it out. Even then, it's not a bad idea to replace suppressors every couple of years.

Other useful features include outlets arranged facing outward, rather than in line, and spaced wide enough to accommodate the ubiquitous little black boxes that charge cell phones and other gadgets. Some strips also offer protected jacks and connectors for telephone and cable lines.

If you have lots of gadgets and don't want to worry about protecting each one, consider a whole-house surge suppressor. These devices cost $150 to $250 and must be installed by an electrician at your breaker box, which may double the cost of the unit itself. But once you have one, it will protect all the equipment in your house from outside surges.

Surge suppression is the first half of protecting your valuable equipment. For some devices, especially a PC, you may also want an uninterruptible power supply, or UPS. A UPS is a heavy, bulky box containing a rechargeable battery that sits between the wall outlet and your computer and other components. Most have outlets for several devices.

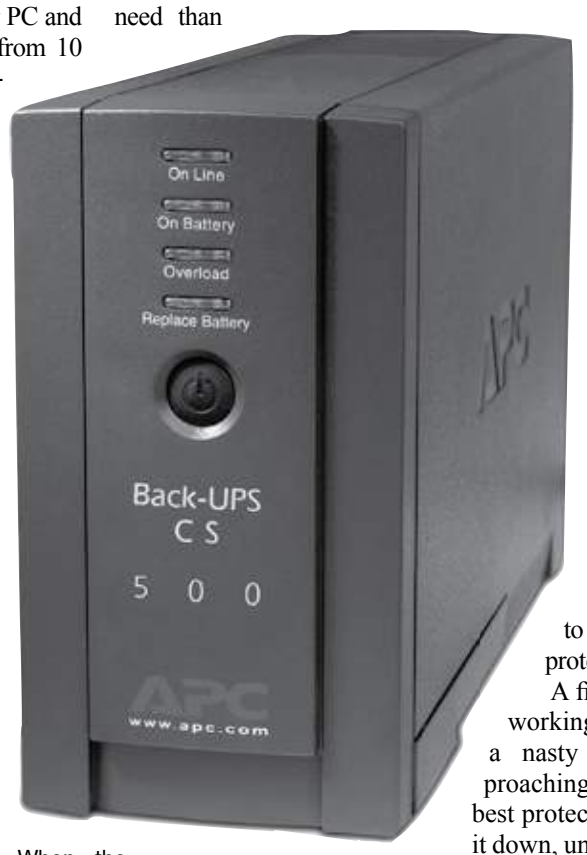
When the voltage drops precipitously, the battery power kicks in and keeps your PC and other devices running from 10 minutes to an hour, depending on how much equipment you plug in and how much you're willing to pay.

This protection is especially important for PCs, because a sudden power loss while the computer is writing data to the hard drive can seriously scramble the disk and even render it unusable—along with all your data, music, videos, financial records and so forth. A UPS also will give your equipment a smooth, untroubled ride with a minimum number of restarts in areas where there are frequent, short blackouts.

Most consumer and small business UPS units also provide surge suppression and power line filtering. They typically have a couple of outlets with battery backup and several more with surge suppression but no auxiliary power.

Generally speaking, you should use battery backup only for your critical equipment to maximize battery life—never plug in printers or scanners. I plug in only my PC, cable modem and router. I wait until I'm ready to shut down the system before plugging in the monitor, so I can see what i'm doing

The backup capacity of UPS units is measured in Volt/Amps (VA). Determining how much UPS you need can involve some onerous calculations, so your best bet is one of the handy calculators on a UPS manufacturer's site. It will probably overstate your needs, but it's better to buy a bit more juice than you need than too little.



When the voltage drops precipitously, the uninterruptible power supply's battery power kicks in and keeps your PC and other devices running from 10 minutes to an hour.

The calculator on the American Power Conversion Web site (aps.com) recommended a unit of at least 800 VA to provide 10 minutes of backup power to my desktop system (computer, monitor, router and cable modem). They start at $150. Other experts say I could get away with a somewhat lighter-duty model, in the 600 to 700 VA range, for $100 or so.

There's no need to plug a laptop computer into a line with a battery backup—the laptop's battery kicks in automatically when the power goes out. However, it's always a good idea to plug it into a surge-protected outlet.

A final word: If you're working at home and hear a nasty thunderstorm approaching, give your PC the best protection available: Shut it down, unplug it and put your feet up until the storm passes. It rarely takes more than a half-hour, and it's guaranteed to work.

THE HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: My anti-virus option, AVG Free 7.5, has been pestering me to upgrade to the 8.0 release—which doesn't seem to be free anymore. Am I missing something?

A: Here we go again. About a year and a half ago, Grisoft, the Czech firm behind the popular, free AVG anti-virus program, confused many users with "please upgrade now" notices that failed to note that the upcoming 7.5 version, like the older 7.1 release, would be available in free and paid editions.

Grisoft seems to be repeating that mistake. Copies of its AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition 7.5 have begun to display a notice headlined "New version" that touts the release of AVG 8.0. But clicking that notice's "Download now!" button takes you to a page that mentions only AVG Internet Security 8.0, a $55 product with many more functions than virus protection.

To download the free edition of AVG 8.0, ignore that page and instead visit free.avg.com. As before, it's only free for personal, at-home use.

■ ■ ■

Q: I incorrectly typed a Web page's address into Firefox and was sent to some other site. Now the browser suggests that other page when I start to type in the correct address.

A: To clear an entry from the "auto-complete" list that Firefox uses to suggest addresses of frequently visited pages, type enough of that address for it to appear in the list that drops down below the browser's address bar. Then hit the down-arrow key to select the offending entry, and hit Delete.

The same procedure, unfortunately, does not work to expunge a Web address from Internet Explorer's auto-complete list. Instead, you'll have to delete the whole list via the Tools menu's "Delete Browsing History..." command.

Pluto's namesakes: Similar bodies are 'plutoids'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pluto is finally getting its day in the sun, after being stripped of planetary status by astronomers two years ago.

From now on all similar distant bodies in the solar system will be called "plutoids." That's the decision by the International Astronomical Union, which met last week in Oslo, Norway, and announced the decision Wednesday.

The same group raised a cosmic fuss when it demoted the once-ninth planet to "dwarf" status in 2006. The new policy allows Pluto to be the standard for a whole new category of dwarf planets.

Pluto is one of only two plutoids, the other being Eris. Both are objects that circle the sun and are too small to be considered planets, but big enough to have a level of gravity that keeps them in a near spherical shape. Plutoids also must be farther from the sun than Neptune.

It was the 2003 discovery of Eris—a body bigger and farther from the sun than Pluto—that eventually led to Pluto's demotion. But the astronomers expect more plutoids to be discovered in the future.

When Pluto was demoted, the astronomical union always planned on naming the new category of objects after the former planet, but had to find the right name, said IAU president Catherine Cesarsky, a French astrophysicist. Their first choice, pluton, was already used by geologists.

The astronomers' action makes Pluto more important, Cesarsky said. Instead of being a "puny" outer planet, Pluto is now a "prototype of a new type of fascinating objects," she said.

"It doesn't really roll off the tongue very well," said Mike Brown, the California Institute of Technology astronomer who discovered Eris. "Maybe it'll make it."

It was not enough to satisfy leading Pluto-as-a-planet advocate Alan Stern, a former NASA space sciences chief and principal investigator on a mission to Pluto. Stern said a rival group could be formed to the IAU, which he said was too secretive in its decision-making.

"It's just some people in a smoke-filled room who dreamed it up," Stern said. "Plutoids or hemorrhoids, whatever they call it. This is irrelevant."

Another Pluto supporter was at least partially pleased.

"It's going in the right direction," laughed Ralph McNutt, a planetary scientist at Johns Hopkins University. "I'd still rather have it just be known as a planet."

"I grew up with nine planets, I'm sorry," McNutt said.

For those of you keeping score at home, the solar system now stands at: Planets 8, Plutoids 2.

Life & Style

Fiesta Filipino, Sagala '08 celebrate Pinoy culture

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
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JUNIOR REPORTER

The Saipan Grand Hotel and Fiesta Resort and Spa teamed up to organize the first Fiesta Filipino and Sagala 2008 event, held early Wednesday evening at the Fiesta's Hibiscus Hall, in celebration of the 110th celebration of the Philippines' Independence Day.

About 160 people participated in the dinner party that also featured performances from the Bayani Association Dance Troupe.

The food festival was a buffet of different Filipino delicacies that included caldereta, adobo, etc. The Bayani dance troupe, meanwhile, gave a 20-minute dance number combining different Filipino folk dances, one of which was the *Pandanggo sa Ilaw*.

"It was really a successful event as many people attended," said Fiesta's Food and Beverage manager Lance Razon.

Saipan Grand's events manager Oscar Yema said it took the two hotel companies and Filipino organizations three months to prepare for the occasion.

"This is not exactly part of our business, but part of our social activities," said Yema. "This is basically our way of supporting the Filipino community, and we wanted to have our own celebration for the Philippine Independence Day."

Bayani Association dance troupe gather for a photo during the Fiesta Filipino and Sagala 2008 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Wednesday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

"We received several good comments from the guests that the food was really delicious," he added.

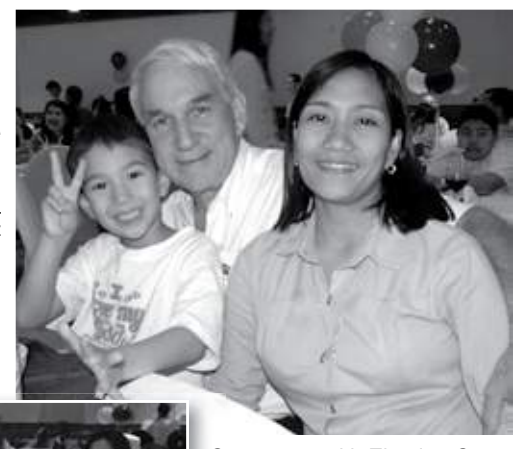
The special guests for the event were Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Miximo, Tsutomu Higuchi from the Japanese Consulate, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

The major sponsors for the event were San Miguel Beer, Pacific Trading Co. and the Philippine Consulate General.

Sagala 2008 Reyna Elena Marielle Sinquenco poses with her family members.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The hardworking organizers of Fiesta Filipino and Sagala 2008 headed by Saipan Grand's events manager Oscar Yema gather for a photo after the successful event.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bayani Association dance troupe members with family and friends.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Jeff Schorr, OIA's field representative on Saipan, with wife Hannah and son Robbie.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Remix band entertain the crowd with Original Pinoy Music.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan with wife Andrea, Consul Belinda Ante of the Philippine Consulate General, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities Council executive director Paz C. Younis and Humanities Council board member Carmen Gaskins grace the occasion.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Fat Joy Slim band singer Joy with Jean and Pete Camacho.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bayani Association dance troupe performs the "Pandanggo sa Ilaw", a native Filipino dance.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Boys and girls parade with their colorful dress for the Sagala 2008.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, CNMI Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo, and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela grace the event.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bayani Association dance troupe performs different Filipino traditional dances.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

'No pictures allowed' in Hyundai, Pohang tour

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Editor's Note: This is the second part of a series relating the day-to-day events that happened during the 16th Annual CNMI Students Cultural Exchange Program in South Korea. The trip was sponsored by the Junior Chamber International Pacific Saipan Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the 16th Annual CNMI Students Cultural Exchange Program delegation pose with Daegu University, president Dr. Yong Doo Lee, and his staff during a visit to the 1,000-acre campus. The trip was sponsored by the Junior Chamber International Pacific Saipan Inc.

ULSAN, South Korea—We all agreed to be in the bus by 7am. Surprisingly, everyone got up just in time to take pictures in front of the San Te Training Center where we stayed.

We started out our day with a full breakfast at a nearby service station. It was either fried chicken or Salisbury steak. I figured its what any of us could read on the menu. I don't think the students were ready yet to order anything else more exotic.

It was a long ride to the Ulsan Hyundai Car Manufacturing Co. I lost track of the time as I slept through almost the entire ordeal.

All I remember next was that we met up with our Hyundai tour guide almost as soon as our bus pulled into our destination. How we were able to spot this little man in the mammoth Ulsan complex is beyond me.

The Ulsan plant is said to be the world's single largest automobile plant in the world. It sits on top of a 1,200 acres site and is Hyundai's main production plant comprising five independent plants capable of producing 5,600 vehicles daily. This place was incredible!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela checks out one of Hyundai's newly made cars.

The group was fortunate enough to witness first hand Hyundai's making of some of its best and top-selling cars.

Unfortunately, pictures were not allowed inside the manufacturing company and inside the shipyard where all the neat stuff happened.

Being the world's largest in scale of its kind, the Ulsan plant is the birthplace of the Korean automobile industry and is a self-contained facility that operates its own fire station, hospital, and security vehicles.

According to our tour guide, the Ulsan plant is also equipped with cutting-edge facilities to protect the environment, such as a wastewater and sewage treatment plants, securing Hyundai's position as a green-minded company.

The Hyundai manufacturing company in Korea has two other plants: the Asan Plant rests on a 440-acre site, with buildings comprising a total of 4.2 million square feet. The Asan Plant produces mainly passenger vans and is capable of an output of 30,000 mid- to large-sized passenger vehicles annually.

Then there's the Jeonju Plant, which occupies a total of 317 acres of land and has 4.3 million square feet in production space. The Jeonju Plant specializes in producing mid- to large-sized buses of 2.5 tons or more, trucks, and specialty vehicles. It is capable of producing 125,000 units per year.

We spent a good three hours visiting the facility, although clearly there was more to the site than the limited places we toured. Of course, Hyundai officials did not let us go until after they presented us souvenirs to take home.

After lunch, we were on our way to the Pohang Steel Manufacturing Co. otherwise known as POSCO. There, we met up with Rose, our POSCO tour guide who warmly welcomed the group to the third largest manufacturing steel producer in the world, producing all kinds of steel for various equipment and appliances—from vehicles to kitchen appliances to nail clippers.

There are approximately 16,600 employees that work for the 9 million square-foot company. Our tour guide said there are not that many employees because everything is pretty much computerized.

The group poses with Yeong Deok City county mayor Hwang Dae Ju and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela after a dinner buffet at the new hotel.
RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

After a short video introduction in the company's VIP conference room, the group, again, was fortunate enough to see how the steel company made their products. Again, no pictures were allowed inside the facility to capture this amazing place.

Before we left, the POSCO tour guide gave each one of us souvenirs that we could use in our everyday life. She gave each one of us a manicure set that is guaranteed to last a lifetime, "so that whenever you use them you can always think of POSCO."

Our next stop was Post Tech where we were greeted by the founding chairman, Tae Joon Park. Two of his staff gave us a tour of the facility where electronics and technology ruled the campus.

Post Tech is one of Korea's first research-oriented university and is known to be the country's top science and engineering university.

According to Park, Post Tech provides an excellent curriculum and environment "for individuals who seek knowledge and truth."

After our little tour of the facility, the staff was kind enough to allow each one of us to check our e-mails using their library computers. This was about the only opportunity I had to catch on e-mails back home until I arrived back on island.

It was about 5:30pm when we started to head on to the city of Yeong Deok. We arrived there at our new hotel about 7pm. There, we met up with county mayor Hwang Dae Ju and other officials of the Yeong Deok City.

We were treated to a dinner buffet, courtesy of the Yeong Deok City, with whom Saipan has been sister cities with for at least 14 years, according to Mayor Juan Tudela.

Both Tudela and Ju emphasized the importance of continuing the sisterhood between the two countries to strengthen their friendship and promote their cultures.

Yeong Deok City is said to be one of the most scenic cities in Korea with its pristine beaches and picturesque towns.

After the group shared a nice dinner buffet with Yeong Deok officials, we all headed back to our hotel rooms to prepare for another big day.

To be continued.

The group poses in front of the Pohang Steel Manufacturing Co. Public Information Office before our tour around its facilities.
RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Backyard fireworks gain power and popularity

BEST SELLERS

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Fiction

1 ***Snuff, by Chuck Palahniuk*** (Doubleday: $24.95) An aging porn star tries to cap her career with a movie of her having sex with 600 men in one day.

2 ***Bright Shiny Morning***, by James Frey (Harper: $26.95) Lives intertwine across Los Angeles.

3 ***Careless in Red***, by Elizabeth George (Harper: $27.95) A detective mourning his late wife stumbles upon the body of a young man.

4 ***The Host***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) A woman refuses to give in to alien invaders who take over the minds, but not the bodies, of humans.

5 ***The Front***, by Patricia Cornwell (Putnam: $22.95) A detective stumbles on trouble in Watertown, Mass.

6 ***Unaccustomed Earth***, by Jhumpa Lahiri (Knopf: $25) Stories of U.S.-born children and their Bengali-born parents straddling cultures.

7 ***Odd Hours***, by Dean Koontz (Bantam: $27) Clairvoyant fry cook Odd Thomas is disturbed by dreams of a sinister red tide.

8 ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***, by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: $24.95) A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.

9 ***Phantom Prey***, by John Sandford (Putnam: $26.95) A wealthy widow returns home to find smeared blood and her daughter missing.

10 ***The Art of Racing in the Rain***, by Garth Stein (Harper: $23.95) A dog's-eye view of love, loyalty and sacrifice for his race-car-driving master.

Nonfiction

1 ***Audition***, by Barbara Walters (Knopf: $29.95) The pioneering newswoman recalls her life and career.

2 ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor with terminal cancer urges us to seize life's moments.

3 ***The Secret***, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

4 ***The Post-American World***, by Fareed Zakaria (W.W. Norton: $25.95) What the future holds with the United States fading as the world's leading economy.

5 ***Just Who Will You Be?*** by Maria Shriver (Hyperion: $14.95) Ask who, not what, you want to be.

6 ***Are You There***, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight Entertainment: $24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating, family and work.

7 ***My Stroke of Insight***, by Jill Bolte Taylor (Viking: $24.95) A brain scientist describes her massive stroke and the steps she took to a full recovery.

8 ***A Wolf at the Table***, by Augusten Burroughs (St. Martin's: $24.95) An exploration of a terrifying relationship between father and son.

9 ***Stolen Innocence***, by Elissa Wall and Lisa Pulitzer (William Morrow: $25.95) A woman's story of marriage at 14 and breaking with a polygamous sect.

10 ***The Soloist***, by Steve Lopez (Putnam: $25.95) The Los Angeles Times columnist befriends a mentally ill homeless musician.

By ALISON LAPP
FOR THE AP

For backyard patriots, the rockets available this Fourth of July are flashier, more creative and louder than ever before.

Thanks to an increase in the legal limit of the amount of pyrotechnic material allowed in consumer fireworks—the kind purchased in roadside trucks and shot off private lawns—a whole new class of recreational explosive has become available to amateur enthusiasts, said Harry Chang of Black Cat Fireworks Inc.

At the same time, the use of backyard fireworks has more than doubled since 2000, according to the American Pyrotechnics Association. That has caused concern among some public safety groups that the rise in both popularity and firepower could prove a combustible mix.

"It's like how Giorgio Armani might develop a pair of jeans that the average person could never have, but eventually lesser designers come out with their own versions," Chang said. "Over the years, smaller, safer versions of professional fireworks have trickled down to consumers."

Julie Heckman, executive director of the pyrotechnic industry group, credits the growing popularity of fireworks to a rise in patriotism after the millennium celebrations followed by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Last year, Americans used 280 million pounds of display and backyard fireworks, nearly 10 times the amount used in 1976, the year that Heckman said "put the firework industry on the map" with America's bicentennial celebrations.

Chief among recent innovations is the multishot aerial, shooting rockets of varying hues up to 100 yards in the air. Chang called it a "display in a box," and they range from a few dollars for multi-shot flaming balls to upwards of $100.

AP

This May 2006 photo provided by George Tasick/Tasick Media shows part of a display designed by Ron Silva and Danny Clark called "The Haunted Mansion" at "The Crackerjacks" fireworks club shoot in Fredericksburg, Va.

Backyard pyrotechnicians can also find fireworks in a wider variety of colors, including magenta, lemonade and the difficult to create deep blue, along with effects that were once the sole purview of professionals, like rockets that burst into bow ties, stars and happy faces.

But not everyone's smiling. In Cynthia D'Amour's neighborhood in Ann Arbor, Mich., the holiday displays make the air smell for days and turn her Chihuahua-pug mix, Raindrop, into a nervous wreck. She sends Raindrop to stay with her parents, away from the noise.

"It isn't fair we have to give up our dog or drug her so a bunch of normally nice folks can be yahoos for a few hours," says D'Amour, 43.

The growing use of fireworks has been helped by looser laws. Five states have opened to fireworks or relaxed laws since 2000, Heckman said, though Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island still ban them completely out of safety concerns.

Doug Edelman of St. Peters, Mo., chalks up excessive noise to teenagers with M-80s and bottle rockets, not more sophisticated home displays.

"I prefer to emphasize visual displays over noise," he says. "So I focus on such items as ground displays with flaming balls and showers of sparks. I also enjoy aerial burst shells, as they provide a visual treat to the neighborhood."

Still, the National Fire Protection Association advocates a total ban on consumer fireworks. More fires typically are reported in the U.S. on Independence Day than on any other day of the year, said spokeswoman Lorraine Carlie.

"We feel fireworks are too risky a product for the general public to use," she said. "There's a big problem with fires starting when they hit buildings or dry, grassy areas."

In 2006, the risk of injury was two-and-a-half times greater for children aged 10-14 than for adults, she said.

"Parents underestimate how dangerous fireworks can be. With alcohol in the mix, a bunch of people and the dark, the Fourth of July is an incredible holiday to work the ER because of all the stuff that happens," said Dr. Denise Dowd, who works in the emergency division of Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

John McCain's daughter is writing children's book

NEW YORK (AP)—Meghan McCain, daughter of the Republican Party's presumptive presidential nominee, is working on a picture book about her father, Sen. John McCain.

Meghan McCain's children's story, currently untitled, will be published by Simon & Schuster the first week of September, around the time of the Republican national convention.

"I am truly excited about the opportunity to write a children's book about my father, who is not only a fantastic dad, but also a great American," McCain, known for her blog, McCain Blogette, http://www.mccainblogette.com, said in a statement issued Wednesday by her publisher.

"This book will offer children the unique opportunity to see the character building events that happened over his lifetime, experiences that led up to his current bid to become the future president of the United States."

Financial terms for the book were not disclosed. Simon & Schuster said that a portion of its net proceeds would be donated to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, which helps wounded veterans and military personnel. Meghan McCain has no current plans to make a similar contribution, according to Simon & Schuster spokesman Paul Crichton.

John McCain's wife, Cindy McCain, had agreed earlier this year to write a memoir for Penguin Group (USA), but she changed her mind, citing time limitations, and the deal was canceled.

AP

In this Dec. 6, 2007 file photo Meghan McCain, left, daughter of Republican presidential hopeful, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., listens to her father's speech in Stratham, N.H. McCain, is working on a picture book about her father.

Memoir coming from Madonna's brother

NEW YORK (AP)—The mystery is solved: Madonna's brother, Christopher Ciccone, is writing a memoir about his sister, to be released in mid-July by Simon & Schuster with a first printing of 350,000, the publisher told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The publisher had been promoting a celebrity memoir for July, asking bookstores to order copies without identifying the author or contents.

Persuading stores to make "blind" orders has been tried before. In 2006, William Morrow offered a mysterious tell-all that turned out to be by Princess Diana's former butler Paul Burrell, who had already written about her. Retailers were angered and the book sold poorly.

The importance of being Alanis

By RICHARD CROMELIN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Alanis Morissette has felt heartbreak before, as anyone who's listened to her ripped-from-life songs knows. But last year's split with her fiance, actor Ryan Reynolds, turned out to be the big one.

"I think it's the straw that breaks the camel's back," Morissette says. "It's having had too many of them. And I was a full-blown love addict, so it was like, 'I can't keep doing this; my body can't take it.' Breakups are a horrible thing for almost everybody I know. For someone who is a love addict, it's debilitating.

"I've been on a constant journey toward finally surrendering and hitting the rock bottom that I've been avoiding my whole life. ... So this was a huge, critical juncture for me. Everything broke, and it was an amazing and horrifying time."

Not surprisingly, you can hear all about it on Morissette's new album, "Flavors of Entanglement," released this week. Although it touches on other themes and isn't framed as a literal blow-by-blow account, the 11 songs describe knotty conflicts and the pain of separation.

"I miss your warmth and the thought of us bringing up our kids / And the part of you that walks with your stick-tied handkerchief," she sings in "Torch," dealing out vivid details in her distinctively conversational style.

But more of the songs—"Not as We," "Moratorium," "Giggling Again for No Reason"—are drawn from the prolonged aftermath of the breakup, a process leading to what she calls "the Phoenix rising."

"I entered into my own version of rehab. I went to therapy five days a week. I journaled. I had a lot of support from this incredible group of friends. ... It was just really moment by moment, step by step, snail's pace."

She also gutted and remodeled her Los Angeles house (one of her favorite forms of expression, she says, equal to making two or three albums), rode motorcycles, worked on a book and designed jewelry.

And made music, this time with English producer Guy Sigsworth, who helped her return on some tracks to an electronic dance style reminiscent of her records as a teen star in her native Canada.

While Morissette has been known for raw candor since her landmark 1995 album "Jagged Little Pill," parts of "Flavors" take it to a new level. This time she didn't need to call on the journals she usually uses as a catalyst, because the events were unfolding as she was working on the music in London and Los Angeles.

"There is an immediacy in that it was all written in real time," she says. "A lot of times I'll write in retrospect. These songs were written in the exact present moment as it was happening, so that may be something that's palpably felt on the record."

> "I've been on a constant journey toward finally surrendering and hitting the rock bottom that I've been avoiding my whole life.... So this was a huge, critical juncture for me. Everything broke, and it was an amazing and horrifying time."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Alanis Morissette wrote and recorded during her split with fiance Ryan Reynolds, and you can hear all about it on Morissette's new album, "Flavors of Entanglement."

A lot of that immediacy also stems from Morissette's unusual method of lyric writing, which is pretty much stream-of-consciousness.

"Typically I go in the studio and whatever I'm contemplating that day will wind up being a song. I don't come in with lyrics. ... I just go in and let it happen. ...

"I don't change anything once we're done. I put all my energy—and this also shows up in other areas of my life—my energy goes into being ready. ... With songwriting I spend a lot of time living life, accruing all these experiences, journaling, and then by the time I get to the studio, I'm teeming with the drive to write."

Sigsworth, who has worked extensively with Bjork and teamed with singer Imogen Heap in the group Frou Frou, says, "So many of my ideas about songwriting have been changed by working with her, because she works so fast as a writer and gets the raw statement of the song so precisely so quickly."

"She seems to just center on that focal point, the crisis issue at the heart of the song, and she gets it immediately," he says.

"There were songs where I would listen and be almost in tears and think, 'Where did this come from? There was nothing here this morning.' "

Sitting in a dressing room at a Southern California rehearsal studio where she and her band are preparing for a long stretch of touring, Morissette, 34, doesn't seem like someone who's been to rock bottom.

Surrounded by exotic wall hangings she's brought in to decorate the bare space, the singer has the focused, upbeat manner of a life coach. She's looking forward to what she calls "the sensual experience" of being on the road. She's dating someone again, and she laughs easily.

This seems more like the prankster who created a sensation with her impromptu version and video of the Black Eyed Peas' "My Humps," which originated in the studio where she and Sigsworth were writing music. "I remember turning to him at one point and I said, 'God, I wish that I could write a really simple song, a song like 'My Humps.' So we just turned to each other, did it on piano really quickly, reinterpreted the harmony, and then within a week of shooting the video in my garage with my comedian friends, we put it up on You Tube.

"I thought maybe a couple hundred people would get a kick out of it. I didn't even think it would be on anyone's radar.

"The lyrics really have the light shone on them when they're balladized," she notes. "So there is something to be said about, 'Make him work work, make him work work work work work.'

"For me I always frame things that fit in with my philosophy, so how I framed that one was, 'Yeah, she's really good at receptivity, which is a decidedly feminine quality.' "

She has also finished shooting a lead role in "Radio Free Albemuth," a science-fiction movie based on a Philip K. Dick novel—one more public venue for a woman who isn't sure that's where she wants to be.

"To me the biggest irony of this lifetime that I'm living is that for someone who thrives in the public eye in the creative ways that I do, I actually don't enjoy being in the public eye," she says. "I feel like I'm a recluse in a famous person's body.

"But I love to entertain. ... My vocation is to accrue all these experiences, to write about them, to get them out of my system, to not get sick, and then to share them publicly. So the sharing-them-publicly thing is that voice that constantly says, 'You have to share this.' I have this temperament of someone who just wants to yell 'No,' but it's what I'm here to do, so I keep doing it."

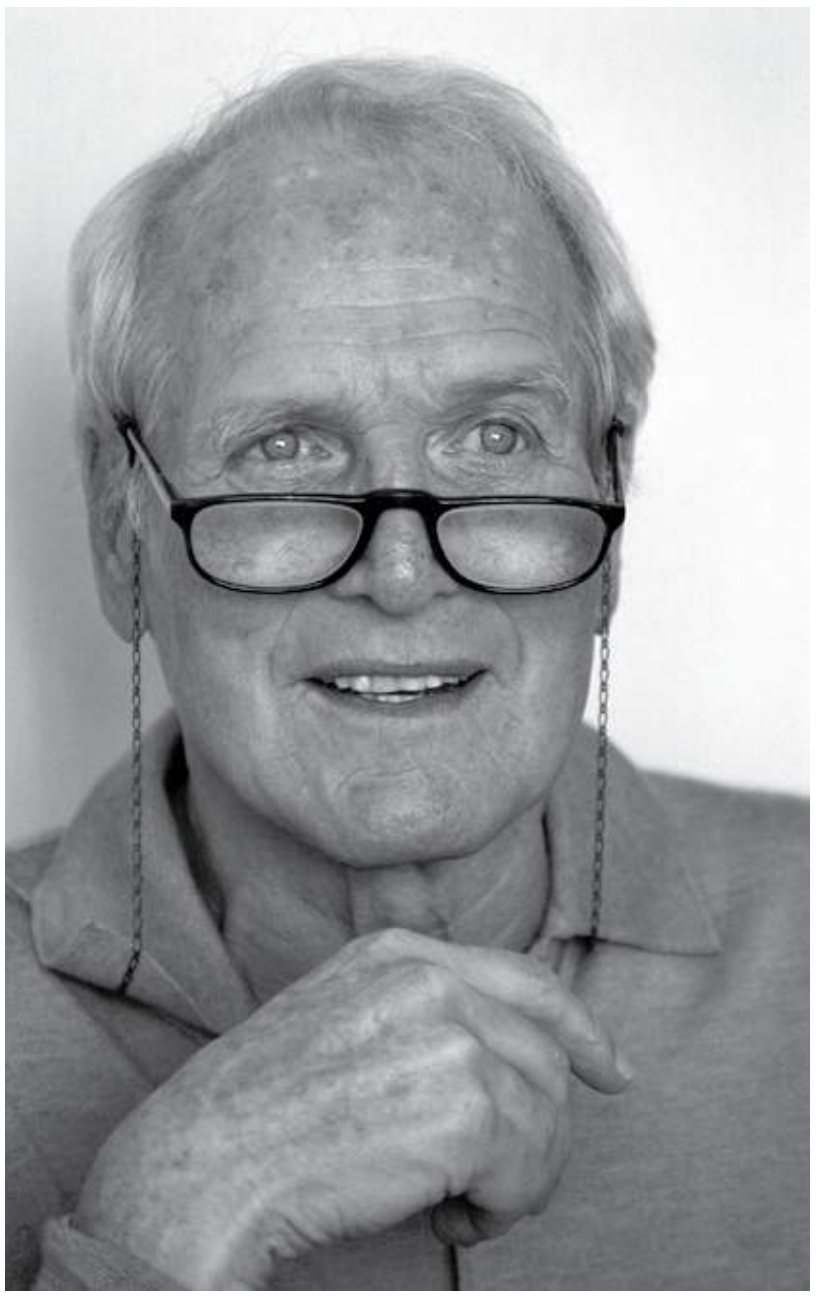
Newman friend says actor has cancer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Paul Newman, the legendary actor and philanthropist, is battling cancer, his longtime neighbor and business partner said Wednesday. Newman, 83,s has recently appeared gaunt in photos, and dropped plans to direct a play in his Connecticut hometown.

Writer A.E. Hotchner, who partnered with Newman to start Newman's Own salad dressing company in the 1980s, said the actor told him about the disease about 18 months ago. He did not specify what kind of cancer, but said Newman is in active treatment.

"I know that it's a form of cancer," Hotchner told The Associated Press. "It's a form of cancer and he's dealing with it."

Newman issued a statement late Tuesday that he's "doing nicely" but didn't specifically address questions about cancer. A call was placed to his spokesman Wednesday seeking comment.



AP

In this June 27, 2002 file photo, actor Paul Newman talks about his movie "Road to Perdition," during an interview in Chicago.

The Oscar winner appeared to have lost weight when he was photographed during practice for the Indianapolis 500 auto race last month. Martha Stewart, in an entry dated June 6, posted a photo on her blog of herself with the actor, who looked thin, at a luncheon to benefit the Hole in the Wall Gang camps for critically ill children. (The Hole in the Wall Gang was led by Newman's affable outlaw character, Butch, in the 1969 film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.")

Newman won an Oscar for his leading role in 1986's "The Color of Money." His screen credits also include "Hud," "Cool Hand Luke," "The Verdict" and "Road to Perdition."

Hotchner said Newman had an operation a few years ago. "It was certainly somewhere in the area of the lung," he said.

"He's battling," Hotchner said. "He's doing all the right stuff. Paul is a fighter. He seems to be going through a good period right now."

Asked about his prognosis, Hotchner said, "Everybody is hopeful. That's all we know."

In 1982, Hotchner and Newman started a company to market Newman's original oil-and-vinegar dressing. Newman's Own, which began as a joke, grew into a multimillion-dollar business selling popcorn, salad dressing, spaghetti sauce and other foods. All the company's profits are donated to charities. By 2007, the company had donated more than $200 million, according to its Web site.

Last month, officials at Connecticut's Westport Country Playhouse cited unspecified health issues when they announced that Newman would not direct "Of Mice and Men" this fall.

Newman lives in Westport with his wife, Joanne Woodward.

Two friends said Tuesday that Newman appeared to be doing well.

"I think he's feeling quite well," said actor James Naughton, who spoke to Newman on Monday night. "As far as I can tell he's doing very well."

Newman had an infection over the winter, but seems to have that under control, Naughton said. He was lively at this month's Hole in the Wall Gang camp fundraiser, he said.

Michael Brockman, Newman's racing team partner, said Newman told him recently that he wants to get back into his race car for a test run and possibly another competition. His last race was last fall, he said.

"I think he's doing better than he was," Brockman said, noting that Newman had regained most of the weight he had lost.

"I think he looks great," said Brockman, who saw Newman last weekend. "I wish I looked that good."

Brockman called Newman "one of the best guys I ever met."

"He's just a regular guy," Brockman said. "He's humble."

Lil Wayne's new CD sells 423,000 in a day

NEW YORK (AP)—The excessive leaks and bootlegging of Lil Wayne's new album haven't prevented it from being a hot seller: The rapper's "Tha Carter III" sold 423,000 copies in its first day of release, according to Billboard magazine, citing figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

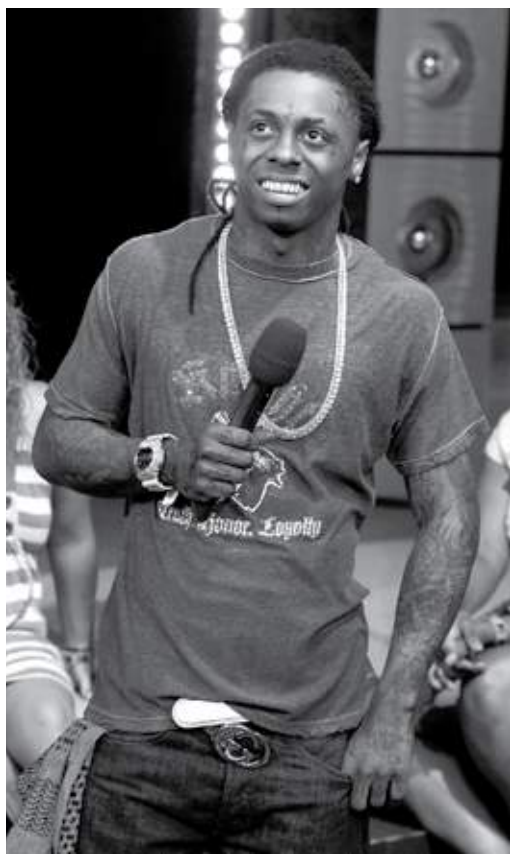
With such sales, Lil Wayne is on pace to sell about 900,000 copies of the CD in its first week and post the best sales debut of the year. Last year's first-week top-seller was from Kanye West, who sold some 957,000 copies of "Graduation."

Though Lil Wayne has been on the rap scene for years, "Tha Carter III," released Tuesday, was expected to be the album that catapults the critically acclaimed rapper into pop superstardom. Ubiquitous on mixtapes and a frequent collaborator, he has owned the No. 1 spot on Billboard's Hot 100 pop chart for the past few weeks with his song "Lollipop," and "Tha Carter III" is among this year's most anticipated CDs.

His last two albums, "Tha Carter" and "Tha Carter II," sold 1.1 million and 1.4 million copies, respectively.

The release date for "Tha Carter III" was pushed back several times because the album was frequently leaked and bootlegged.

The year's best first-week seller so far was posted by Mariah Carey. Her "EMC2" sold about 463,000 in the first week, according to Nielsen SoundScan.



AP

Rapper Lil' Wayne makes an appearance on MTV's "Total Request Live" show at MTV Studios in Times Square on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 in New York.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Carmen Dolores Fejeran Soo

passed away in the grace of our Lord on June 06, 2008, at the age of 48.

In her eternal life she now joins her heavenly Father:

Parents: Isidro Tydingco Fejeran & Rosa Taman Maliti-Fejeran

Brother: Joseph Phillip Maliti Fejeran

GrandParents: Elias Olopai Maliti & Clara Somorang Taman Camacho
Jose Cruz Fejeran & Maria Tydingco Fejeran

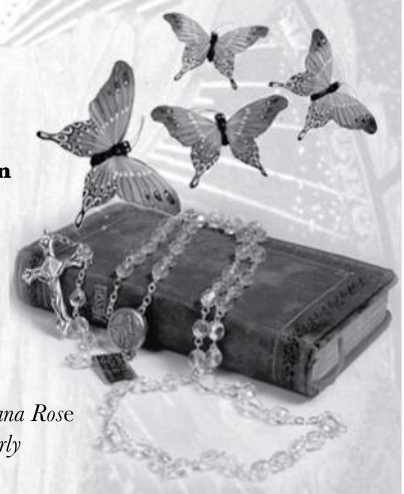
Niece: Allison Colleen Nepaial

In-Law:
Father: Cho Nae Hwan
Mother: Lee Soon Myung
Sister: Cho Young Ja

She will always live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Cho Dae Soo

Children: Mari Soo, Joshua Sung Wook Soo, Ryan Sung Hyun Soo



Siblings & Spouse:
Elias M. & Bernie D. Fejeran; *Joseph, Emelaine, Elisa, Elias Jr.*
Juannet DLG. Fejeran & Joe Duenas; *Eddie John & Makiko, Cassandra & George (Bianca), Rose Marie & Shan (Makaily, Joenet), Joenie & Brian*
Pedro M. & Keisha N. Fejeran; *Awi, Carmelita, Estherlita, Iouana Rose*
Francisca M. Fejeran & Jeffrey Robinson; *Richard & Kimberly (Cheryl Mo'ika), Robert, Ray Jonathan, Sharlyn, Renall*
Rosalina M. Fejeran & Ray Ruluked
Esther F. & Alfonis Sound; *Angel*
Clarissa M. Fejeran & Watson Sam; *Boleen, Lance Dale, Beverleen*
Isidora F. & Levaula Tasi; *Rex & Valencia (Siana Dorene), Leon & Gina (Tasiaeafe,Bruce Uitime), Seipepa, Uitime*

She will always be remembered by numerous aunties, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

Nightly Mass is being said at 6:00 p.m. at **San Vicente Church** follow by the **Rosary**.

On Saturday, June 14th, 2008, her remains will be escorted from CHC at 7:30 a.m. to San Vicente Church.
Viewing will be paid beginning at 8:30 a.m. Last **Rosary** will recited at 10:30 a.m.

The **Mass of Christian Burial** will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. follow by **Interment Service** at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Garden in Kagman.

Please join us in prayers.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway,
Kahnsapnida, Thank You.

Heigl says no to an Emmy nomination

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katherine Heigl won't be chewing her manicure at this year's Emmy ceremony: She says she didn't seek a nomination because "Grey's Anatomy" failed to deliver the goods for an award-worthy performance.

Heigl, who was honored as best supporting actress in a drama last year for the ABC series, declined to put her name in consideration for a bid, a spokeswoman for the actress said Wednesday.

"I did not feel that I was given the material this season to warrant an Emmy nomination and in an effort to maintain the integrity of the academy organization" decided against competing, Heigl said in a written statement provided by her publicist, Melissa Kates, who was contacted by the AP.

AP
In this May 31, 2008 file photo, actress Katherine Heigl arrives at the 7th Annual Chrysalis Butterfly Ball in Los Angeles.AP

"In addition, I did not want to potentially take away an opportunity from an actress who was given such materials," added Heigl. She plays Dr. Izzie Stevens on "Grey's Anatomy," which slipped in the ratings this past season but remained a top 10 show.

An after-hours message left with a publicist for "Grey's Anatomy" creator and executive producer Shonda Rhimes was not immediately returned Wednesday night.

Heigl, who shot to box-office success last summer with the comedy "Knocked Up," has established herself as one of Hollywood's rare voices of candor.

In a Vanity Fair magazine interview published in January, she called the hit film "a little sexist" and said that it painted women as "shrews, as humorless and uptight," while the male characters were lovable and goofy.

Heigl also was outspoken when "Grey's" castmates Isaiah Washington and T.R. Knight clashed last year over Washington's alleged use of a homophobic slur.

"I'm going to be really honest right now, he needs to just not speak in public. Period," Heigl said at one point of Washington, who ended up being booted from the medical drama.

Nominations for the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards will be announced July 17. The cermony is Sept. 21.

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Incredible Hulk
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sun - Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:00
Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
In this new beginning, scientist Bruce Banner desperately hunts for a cure to the gamma radiation that poisoned his cells and unleashes the unbridled force of rage within him: The Hulk. Living in the shadows—cut off from a life he knew and the woman he loves, Betty Ross—Banner struggles to avoid the obsessive pursuit of his nemesis, General Thunderbolt Ross, and the military machinery that seeks to capture him and brutally exploit his power. As all three grapple with the secrets that led to The Hulk's creation, they are confronted with a monstrous new adversary known as The Abomination, whose destructive strength exceeds even The Hulk's own.

The Happening
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sun - Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo
Action, Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
It begins with no clear warning. It seems to come out of nowhere. In a matter of minutes, episodes of strange, chilling deaths that defy reason and boggle the mind in their shocking destructiveness, erupt in major American cities. What is causing this sudden, total breakdown of human behavior? Is it some kind of new terrorist attack, an experiment gone wrong, a diabolical toxic weapon, an out-of-control virus? Is it being transmitted by air, by water--how? For Philadelphia high school science teacher Elliot Moore what matters most is finding a way to escape the mysterious and deadly phenomenon.

★ ★ ★

Kung Fu Panda
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:20 7:30 9:30
Sun - Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:30
Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:10 7:10 10:05
Sun - Thurs 1:15 4:10 7:10
Peter Dinklage, Liam Neeson
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sun - Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:15
Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

You Don't Mess with the Zohan
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sun - Thurs 1:20 4:05 7:25
Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider
Action, Comedy • Rated PG-13

Sex and The City
Fri and Sat @ 4:15 @ 9:45
Sun - Thurs @ 4:15 @
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy, Romance • Rated R

Iron Man
Fri and Sat 1:00 @ 7:05 @
Sun - Thurs 1:00 @ 7:05
Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

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John Cusack takes on John McCain in political ad

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pop quiz: Why has John Cusack jumped into the political arena with a video saying John McCain is a war-profiteering clone of President George W. Bush?

"I know my opinion doesn't matter more than anyone else's and I just make films," he told The Associated Press in a phone interview Wednesday. "But I do feel you have to speak out, and that's what I'm doing."

The 30-second video, which went out to members of the liberal political activist group MoveOn.org on Wednesday, will begin airing on television Thursday. In it, Cusack offers a "pop quiz" to voters, asking them among other things: "Who supports keeping our troops in harm's way in Iraq but not the bipartisan G.I. bill of rights to support them when they return home?"

McCain and Bush both do, Cusack says, adding, "Bet you can't tell them apart."

The cost to air the ads is $45,000. They will appear nationally on the Bravo cable channel and in Washington, D.C., on CNN, MSNBC and Comedy Central.

In his latest film, the war satire "War Inc.," Cusack makes no secret that he believes the Iraq war was created to profit private businesses like Blackwater Worldwide and Bechtel Corp., which hold war-related contracts worth millions of dollars.

AP
In this Jan. 21, 2007 file photo, actor John Cusack poses for a photograph during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

"I'm not going to pretend this thing in Iraq was some kind of free market utopia to spread the gospel of democracy through the Middle East," he told the AP from London, where he's at work on another project.

Cusack says he supports Democrat Barack Obama.

Although he has made such films as "War Inc." and last year's "Grace is Gone," in which he plays the husband of a soldier killed in Iraq, Cusack notes this has been his first high-profile foray into partisan politics.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Hogan's wife asks judge to hold him in contempt

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Hulk Hogan's estranged wife is asking a Florida judge to cite the wrestler for allegedly not paying his share of a $4.2 million Las Vegas condo.

Linda Bollea is asking that Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, be held in contempt of court and jailed until he pays. A court order requires them to share the purchase of the condo at The Palms hotel and spa.

Linda Bollea is asking that Hogan be jailed in Pinellas County. That's where the couple's son is serving an eight-month sentence after pleading no contest to causing a crash that seriously injured his friend.

An assistant for Hogan's lawyer says the attorney wasn't immediately available. Linda Bollea's lawyer is expected to release a statement later Wednesday.

Rodney King to appear on VH1's 'Celebrity Rehab'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rodney King will appear in the next installment of VH1's "Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew."

The show features famous people dealing with drug and alcohol problems aided by celebrity addiction specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky.

King, whose 1991 beating by Los Angeles police led to deadly rioting the next year, prompting him to make a famously earnest plea for peace, will appear with actor Jeff Conaway, former Guns 'N Roses drummer Steven Adler, Rod Stewart's son Sean and actress Tawny Kitaen.

The new season is slated to premiere in October, the network said Tuesday.

Daniel Craig suffers minor injury

Councilman apologizes to Rip Torn for campaign ad

CINCINNATI (AP)—City Councilman Chris Monzel has publicly apologized to Emmy-winning actor Rip Torn for using his mug shot in a campaign ad on crime.

Monzel, who won re-election last November, said a black bar covered Torn's eyes in the TV ad. The photo, available on Internet sites, came from Torn's 2006 drunken-driving arrest in North Salem, N.Y.

Monzel said the ad was meant to depict a generic criminal and discuss his efforts to "get sexual predators off the streets." He said the ad wasn't meant to have anything to do with the 77-year-old actor.

However, someone was able to identify Torn, and the actor was notified, Monzel said. Monzel quickly pulled the ad from local TV and cable stations.

Torn demanded an apology. On Tuesday, Monzel placed an ad in The Cincinnati Enquirer describing Torn as an award-winning actor who had served honorably in the Army. The wording was negotiated over months, Monzel said.

"That's what this is about," he said. "And I apologize for it. I want to take full responsibility."

The Enquirer said efforts to reach Torn were unsuccessful.

AP

In this April 13, 2008 file photo, Daniel Craig arrives at the world premiere of "Flashbacks of a Fool" at a cinema in central London.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Agent 007 still has all of his digits. Daniel Craig was sent to the hospital after suffering a minor hand injury while filming the latest James Bond movie "Quantum of Solace" at Pinewood Studios near London.

"There was a minor incident on set," Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group spokesman Steve Elzer told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Daniel injured his hand. He sought medical attention. He was back on the set within a matter of hours and production went on."

An e-mail and phone call to the 40-year-old British actor's publicist was not immediately returned Wednesday.

It's not the first accident that's occurred during filming for "Quantum of Solace." Stuntmen were injured while filming an action sequence on famously winding lakeside roads in Northern Italy in April. Neither Craig, director Marc Forster or any other cast members were at the location when those accidents occurred.

"Quantum of Solace" is the 22nd Bond film and is scheduled for release later this year.

Boy George to perform for NYC sanitation workers

NEW YORK (AP)—Boy George is returning some good karma to New York City's sanitation workers: Two years after sweeping the city streets as part of community service, he has decided to perform a free concert for his former co-workers.

George will sing some of his hits for the Department of Sanitation's Family Day on Aug. 17.

"The people I worked alongside showed great kindness to me at a very difficult time, and I wanted to thank them all in a way that would show my appreciation," he said.

Michael A. Bimonte, a first deputy commissioner with the department, said: "Keeping New York City safe and clean is a daunting challenge—as Boy George well knows—and we welcome his generous offer to entertain those who have made our city the cleanest it has been in more than 30 years."

The British singer, who turns 47 on Saturday, was ordered to work for the department after pleading guilty to falsely reporting a burglary at his lower Manhattan apartment. The police officers who responded there found cocaine.

As a result, he took to the streets of Manhattan as a sanitation worker wearing an orange vest, dark capri pants, shoes without socks.

Boy George, born George O'Dowd, is best known for his genre-bending stint in the group Culture Club, which charted hits including "Karma Chameleon" and "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me."

He is launching a North American tour in Aspen, Colo., July 10.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Country-music group Rascal Flatts was in the audience of "American Idol" on Tuesday, May 6, and in the next hour they performed on "Dancing With the Stars." I thought that both of those shows were live. Evidently, one of them is not. Which one is not live?—T.G., via e-mail

A: Actually, both shows air live—their studios just happen to be next door to one another. So, Rascal Flatts was able to be in two places at almost the same time. A few weeks previously, Paula Abdul was in the audience of "DWTS," as host Tom Bergeron pointed out, and she was able to still perform her judging duties. However, there is no word on if Paula accidentally judged a dance that had yet to be performed.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Could you please tell me when "24" is coming back on Fox? I know the writers' strike affected the start of the season, but nothing else has been said about this show.—Kathy M., via e-mail

Judy Greer

A: Rather than air a shorter season for 2008 (which would go against the whole premise of the show taking place over a 24-hour period), Fox has decided to air the next season of "24" beginning in January 2009. However, in order to catch viewers up with what has been happening in the world of "24" and Agent Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland), the show will return in the fall with a two-hour prequel. It will take place almost a year after Day 6 and will set up the story that launches season seven.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have been watching a new show called "Miss Guided." I loved the show and every character in it. It takes a lot to make me laugh out loud, but I did when I watched that show. I haven't seen it on lately. Please tell me it will come back again. It was great.—Sharon from Florida

A: I am with you on this one, Sharon. "Miss Guided" was my favorite new show of the 2008-2009 television season. A lot of that has to do with the comic brilliance that is Judy Greer and Chris Parnell, who portray Becky Freeley and Bruce Terry, respectively. Picked up as a midseason replacement, "Miss Guided" shot and aired all seven of its episodes. As of this writing, ABC has not decided whether it will bring the show back for a full second season.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I was so happy that ABC decided to air the rest of this season's episodes of my favorite new series, "Men in Trees." Will the show be back next season?—Jeannie R. in Pennsylvania

A: I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but as of this writing, sources inside ABC have confirmed that "Men in Trees" will not be coming back next season. Now would be a good time for "Tree" fans to start that online petition!

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Sister sees naked truth of teen's eating disorder

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My younger sister "Marni" is 15 and paranoid about her weight because when she was younger she was teased about being fat. From what I have learned on the Internet, she may suffer from anorexia.

Marni barely eats most of the time, but occasionally she'll stuff herself and then get rid of it by throwing up in the bathroom. She has also started taking laxatives. We share a room, so I see her without her clothes on, and her body is wasting away. It's not obvious when she's dressed, but when she's undressed she's literally skin and bones.

Marni says she's "fine" and will stop her behavior "once she gets her weight down," even though she's already much too thin. She won't let me say anything to Mom, who doesn't seem to realize what's going on. What should I do? I know she needs help.

ANXIOUS IN LEXINGTON, KY.

DEAR ANXIOUS: Marni is NOT fine. You should tell your mother immediately what she has been doing because her life could depend on it. Her distorted body image is not her fault. She needs professional help and should be seen by your family physician immediately.

Throwing up after meals and taking laxatives are symptoms of a severe, life-threatening eating disorder. As you probably learned online, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness.

Nearly 10 million women and 1 million men suffer from an eating disorder. The National Eating Disorders Association has many thousands of members and offers programs and information to support individuals, families and friends who have been affected by eating disorders. Its Information and Referral Helpline ((800) 931-2237) and Web site (www.nationaleatingdisorders.org) offer the latest information available on recognizing the early warning signs and getting quality treatment and support.

Eating disorders are treatable if caught in time, and recovery is possible. Marni is fortunate to have a loving sister who cares about her welfare, and I'm glad you wrote.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is 20 and finishing her second year of college. She lived in a dorm the first year and now shares an apartment in another city.

When she comes home for the weekend, do I have the right to expect her to follow a few rules while she's under my roof? She thinks she should be able to do whatever she wants since she is 20 and living independently while at college.

I think she should show us respect by abiding by her curfew (2 a.m.) and not spending the night with her boyfriend. I am tired of lying awake waiting to hear her come in so I'll know she's safe. What she does at school is different because I'm not so tuned in to her comings and goings, but when she's here, I worry.

Am I asking too much, or is she being inconsiderate?

EXHAUSTED AND FRUSTRATED, HAMILTON, OHIO

DEAR E AND F: I think we both know the answer to that question. If your daughter were as mature as she thinks she is, she would understand that it's a parent's job to worry. She'd have more sensitivity and respect for your feelings, and be less centered on herself.

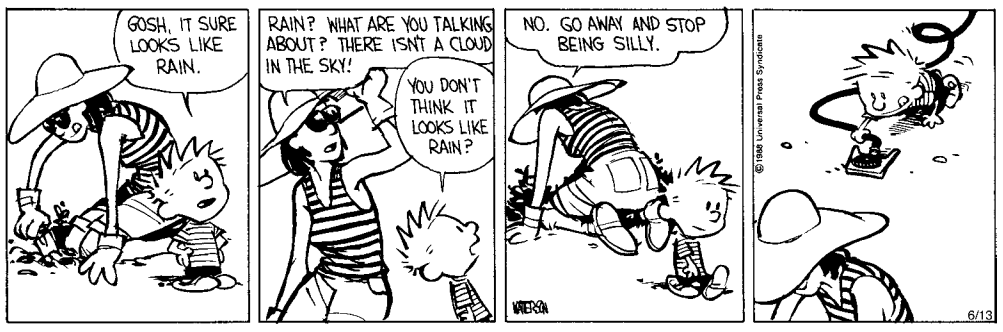
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


GOSH, IT SURE LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
RAIN? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE ISN'T A CLOUD IN THE SKY!
YOU DON'T THINK IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN?
NO. GO AWAY AND STOP BEING SILLY.
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WATTERSON
6/13

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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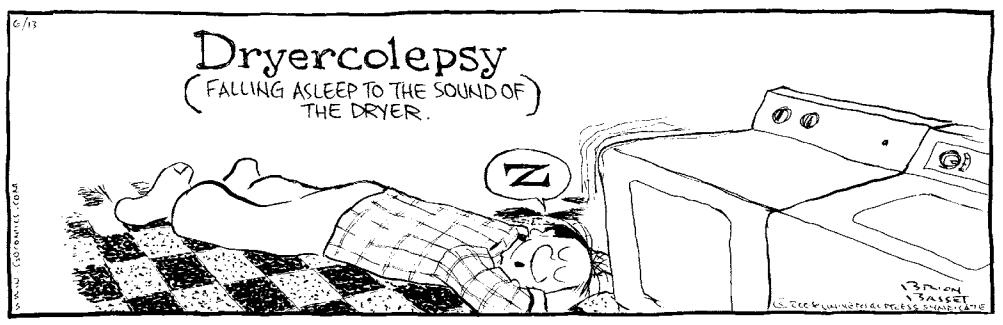
JIM DAVIS 6-13

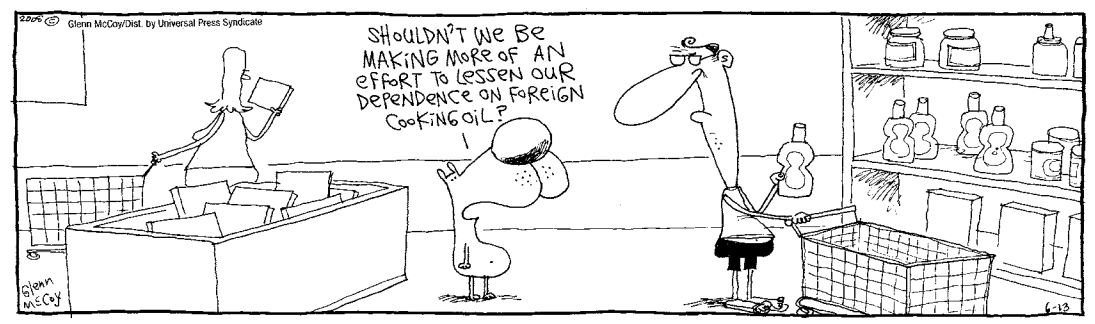
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


2006 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
SHOULDN'T WE BE MAKING MORE OF AN EFFORT TO LESSEN OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN COOKING OIL?
Glenn McCoy
6-13

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Gorilla
4 Shapely leg
7 Wept
12 Plant prickle
13 A mean Amin
14 Torment
15 Blackbird
16 Trial-use PC programs
18 Govt. agcy.
19 Macho type
20 Melt
22 Edge
23 Avoid
27 Eisenhower
29 Laud
31 With 34-Across, site of central activity
34 See 31-Across
35 Sweethearts
37 Agent
38 Probability
39 Reed or Rawls
41 McNally partner
45 Dismissal
47 Marvin or Majors
48 Skivvies
52 Zsa Zsa's sis
53 Persistent attack
54 Onassis, to pals
55 Corral
56 Nudge
57 Caustic solution
58 Storefront stats

DOWN
1 Sternward
2 Sock
3 "All My Children" role
4 Lillian of silents
5 Stick
6 Florida city
7 "Big Brother" host Julie
8 Uncooked
9 Playwright Levin
10 Mess up
11 Hair color
17 Freeway access
21 Mess under a desk, maybe
23 Lecherous one
24 That guy's
25 "Born in the —"
26 Bottom line
28 Crucial
30 Wardrobe malfunction
31 Personal question?
32 Scuttle
33 Conclude
36 Adagio
37 Sweet
40 Fans call him Shaq
42 Hebrew letter
43 When pigs fly
44 Campus bigwigs
45 Staff
46 Pennsylvania port
48 Work with
49 Zilch
50 Society newbie
51 Id counterpart

Solution time: 25 mins.

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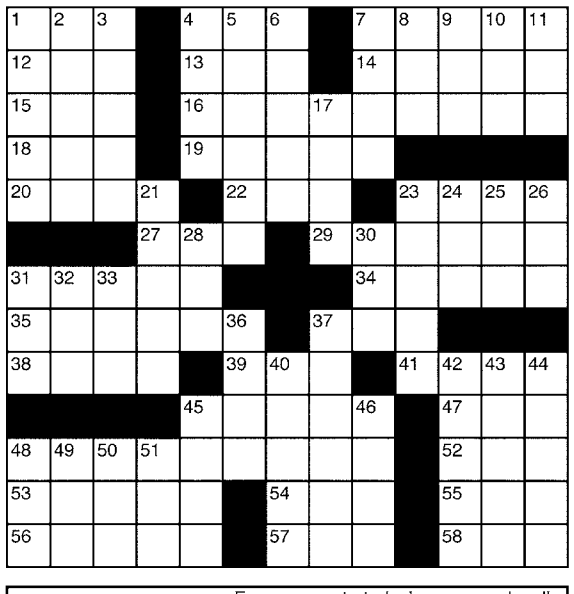
Yesterday's answer 6-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, 22; Raz-B, 23; Rivers Cuomo, 38; Tim Allen, 55

Happy Birthday: Many changes will take place that will keep you on your toes. Your ability to adapt quickly will save the day. The balance between what you can do, should do and want to do must be calculated with perfection. Love and romance will offer you a new sense of belonging with someone you are already with or lead to someone new if you are single. Your numbers are 8, 17, 22, 28, 32, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Love is warming up nicely, so take advantage of the moment and make a promise to someone special. Plan a vacation or mini holiday. The adventure will bring you closer to someone you want to spend more time with. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Ask for help and you will receive it. Don't be shy and you can turn ideas into something concrete. Set an example by staying calm but being productive. Reuniting with someone from your past will ignite emotional memories. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): It's time to put your plans on the table for all to see. You will be highly persuasive and able to charm your way into the pocketbooks of influential people. Love is moving in on you, so open your heart and have some fun. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Be careful how you portray yourself. Someone may think you are offering something you are not. Look into the possibilities of starting your own business or learning about something that you may enjoy doing in your downtime. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give in to demands or an ultimatum. You have plenty to offer and, once you lay out your plan, you will persuade the people you are dealing with to follow you. A partnership will be tempting but make sure the other person has as much to offer as you. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Observe what's being done and you'll get an idea how you can prosper or get ahead in a competitive world. An opportunity is present but take baby steps if you want to go the distance. Too much, too fast will end in disaster. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't hold back when you have so much to gain from someone who is as creative, inventive and intelligent as you. Travel and meeting other people will help you connect with individuals who will complement your talents. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep matters hush-hush and you will stand to make more in the end. Work at home will lower your overhead. Love is in the stars, so spend some time with your lover or do something conducive to meeting someone new. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Talks can lead to an agreement and the chance to finally put one set of circumstances to rest, opening a new door and beginning a new life. Sign up for something that interests you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Close deals and finish what you start but, most of all, clear your mind so you can enjoy time with friends and family. The ideas you share and the support you get from loved ones will inspire you to do even better. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A partnership will influence your future. Things are beginning to heat up for you and interacting with people will show you a new way of doing things. Money is heading your way. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be honest with others. A great partnership needs to be put to rest one way or the other. Regrets for past actions can help you resurrect something you've always wanted to do. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a creative thinker and a great storyteller. You are impressive, inventive and imaginative and have a dynamic personality.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1		5				3		7
2				7	4			1
		8	1		6			
		3				5		
			5		9	1		
7			8	1				3
3		4				2		6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	2	5	9	3	1	7	4
4	9	3	7	2	1	8	5	6
5	1	7	4	6	8	9	3	2
3	7	5	1	4	9	2	6	8
6	2	9	8	3	5	7	4	1
1	4	8	6	7	2	5	9	3
7	8	4	2	5	6	3	1	9
9	5	1	3	8	4	6	2	7
2	3	6	9	1	7	4	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SUCCESSFUL DIETS **Solution: 6 letters**

A	E	R	C	R	A	T	E	E	C	U	D	E	R	S
T	S	T	E	I	R	N	O	I	T	I	R	T	U	N
A	I	S	I	A	T	A	R	G	E	T	S	P	N	A
E	C	B	E	T	C	S	D	N	U	O	P	H	N	T
W	R	H	A	S	E	H	I	A	Q	L	E	Y	I	U
S	E	W	N	H	S	P	I	L	E	U	C	S	N	R
M	X	K	I	A	E	M	P	M	O	D	I	I	G	A
U	E	O	A	K	S	A	E	A	E	H	F	C	E	L
S	T	O	R	E	D	N	L	N	S	C	I	A	K	N
C	S	C	T	S	T	O	I	T	T	T	C	L	I	A
L	S	E	C	S	W	F	R	L	H	A	I	E	Ⓑ	C
E	O	A	A	F	E	E	L	O	H	W	T	S	Ⓤ	T
S	L	L	A	D	T	I	U	R	F	O	O	D	Ⓛ	I
E	A	T	G	C	R	S	T	O	R	R	A	C	Ⓚ	V
D	H	T	H	G	N	A	L	P	B	I	M	A	G	E

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Absorb, Active, Aims, Appetite, Assessment, Bike, Bulk, Carrots, Cook, Defined, Exercise, Food, Fruit, Grill, Habit, Health, Heart, Holistic, Image, Loss, Low Fat, Muscles, Natural, Nutrition, Physical, Plan, Pounds, Protein, Quick, Rate, Reach, Reduce, Running, Salad, Scale, Shakes, Specific, Stored, Stretch, Supplements, Sweat, Target, Train, Watch, Whole

Yesterday's Answer: Captivity

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

AUTOMOTIVE/MOTORCYCLE

2003 Toyota Tacoma P-Up. 4wheel drive, 4 cyl. only 37,000 miles! Excellent condition, records to prove it. $12,000 OBO. 235-7358-leave a message.

2007 Honda CRF 250R Motorcycle. 250cc, low mileage, street legal, extra set of tires. $5,000 OBO. 235-7358-leave a message

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www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

SERVICE

Do you need a Female CAREGIVER?
Please contact me at 483-7482

MISCELLANEOUS

Bargain plant sale-Orchids and house plants. Everything must go! Kulot de Rosa (past Saipan Health Clinic) left on Apu drive. Call 235-7358

FOR SALE

BUD'S BAR For Sale
$15,000 all inclusive. Stop by to see for yourself. Contact LES @ 898-4866

FOR RENT
ONE BR. APT. NEAR MHS, in a quiet, secure area behind Calvo's Market, off Texas Rd. 24hrs. govt. & rain water. Fully air conditioned and furnished with walk in closets. All rooms also have ceiling fans. Has its own washing machine, $425. Call Ed at 235-0409.

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in this section

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSITION	LOCATION	JVA NO.	
Laboratory Specialist	CUC Water Lab., Saipan	08-017	Opening Date: 6/11/08 Closing Date: 6/13/08
POSITION	**LOCATION**	**JVA NO.**	
Laboratory Technician	CUC Water Lab., Saipan	08-018	Opening Date: 6/11/08 Closing Date: 6/24/08

For detailed information on the duties and responsibilities and the minimum qualifications, please visit the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Room 13.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5138

Melissa Simms
PMB 278 PPP
Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950
670.234.1253 home
670.664.2366 office

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF:	)	**FCD AD NO. 08-0310**
GEMMA KATHLEEN SIMMS (currently known as Kiana Rose Manglona)	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	)	
MARY MELISSA LIM	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 26, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Byron Gabito Piteg
PO Box 504551 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone: 234-5348

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF: HAILLIE MYKHA SOLOMON COSTALES Minor Child	)	**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0298**
By:	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
BYRON GABITO PITEG Petitioner.	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 31, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF PERSONNET MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 5153 CHRB, SAIPAN. MP 96950 -5153
TEL. NOS.: (670) 234-6925 /6958/8036
Fax no.: (670) 234-1013

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-085
OPENING DATE: 06/02/08
CLOSING DATE: 06/16/08

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: Contracting Officer **PL - UNGRADED**
$3,846.15 B/W - $100.000.00 P/A

The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: **Office of the Governor, Saipan**
CIP Program Office

DUTIES:
Authority: Executes and/or terminates CIP Contracts based on relevant findings and determination; Binds the CNMI government into a contract based only on delegated authority. Receives delegated authority from CIP Administrator in writing, specifying the extend and the limits of the authority. Provides the public and agency personnel information on what the Contracting Officer can and cannot do. Ensures all CIP Contracts are complete and correct and have met all the requirements of the law, executive orders, applicable procedures, prior to approval. **Responsibilities:** promotes effective contracting by ensuring that the terms and conditions of a contract are met and complied with, safeguarding the contractual relationship and interest of the CMIM Government; Ensures that all contract requirements are always in compliance with pertinent laws, regulations, policies and procedures; Ensures that sufficient funds are always available for obligations; Ensures that contractors always receive impartial, fair, and equitable treatment; Solicits and considers the advise of specialists pertaining to audits reports, legal matters, engineering, transportation, etc.; Communicates effectively in speaking and in writing. Interacts effectively with office staff, public employees and clienteles; Conducts effective problem-solving and analyzes technical problems; Updates and implements applicable rules, regulations, policies and procedures pertaining to contract administration for both the CNMI Government and the Federal Grant funds; Assigns 702 CIP projects to the Project Managers; Reviews and approves project packages prepared by the702 CIP Project Managers for contractual feasibility prior to submission to the Office of Insular Affairs; Delegates 702 CIP contract related duties to the Project Manager as necessary. **Pre-Award:** Prepares pre-award contract documents including but not limited to specifications, invitation to bid, requests for proposals and requests for qualifications. Reviews and approves solicitation packages; Approves the selection of an evaluation committee to review proposals; Negotiates the price, technical requirements and the terms and conditions of the contract as necessary; Awards approved contracts and issues Notices to Proceed. **Mid-Award/Contract Administration:** Verifies, with the assistance of the project Managers, that the contractor performs the technical requirements of the contract in accordance with the contract terms, conditions and specifications. Evaluates with the assistance of the Project Managers, contractor performance for quality, timeliness, and acceptability, as outlined by the terms of the contracts; Reviews, negotiates and approves contractual change orders; Investigates and documents any suspected fraud and reports findings to the Public Auditor; Resolves any contract dispute(s); Conducts sit visits. **Post-Award:** Prepares all required post-award contract documents; Ensures that all necessary inspections of the completed projects are conducted; Ensures that any identified deficiencies are addressed/corrected; Ensures prompt contractual termination and close-out upon completion of the project. **Administrative:** Drafts and issues necessary letters/correspondence; Conducts formal pre-award, mid-award, negotiation and post-award conferences and other meetings as necessary; Reviews all letters/correspondences, reports and other materials by contractors; Certifies contractor invoices for accuracy and approves payments. **Record Keeping/Documentation:** Maintains files with copies of all documents and relevant communication concerning CIP contracts; Prepares memoranda for the record covering all meetings/discussions with contractors; Documents any violations of contract provisions; Assists project Managers with duties pertaining to contracting. Performs other related duties as assisted.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from college or university with a Bachelors Degree preferably in business or business-related fields such as administration, management, finance, accounting or pre-law (other fields of study will be considered on a case-by-case basis). Must possess a minimum of five (5) years experience in contract administration from the entire range of pre-award to post-award functions ("cradle to grave"). Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is **"EXEMPT"** Is not eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to part IV.BI6 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I.7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: **Education and training claimed under item 25(A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma or certificate. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION. INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT**

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:

Office of Personnel Management
J.M. Building, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950

Office of Personnel Management
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952

Office of Personnel Management
Songsong Village
Rota, MP 96951

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan*, on *Thursday*, *June 26*, 2008, at *10:00 a.m.* on the application of *Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort*, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *construction and operation of a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course*, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further information.*** For further information, please contact CDA's Acting Chief Executive Officer at 234-7145/7146/6293/6245, or at the CDA office at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF PERSONNET MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 5153 CHRB, SAIPAN. MP 96950 -5153
TEL. NOS.: (670) 234-6925 /6958/8036
Fax no.: (670) 234-1013

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-086
OPENING DATE: 06/02/08
CLOSING DATE: 06/16/08

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: Project Coordinator **PL - UNGRADED**
$1,413.46 B/W - $36,750.00 P/A

The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: **Office of the Governor, Saipan**
CIP Program Office

DUTIES:
Technical/Professional Knowledge: Knows & understands contract administration. Knows & understands construction project management principles and techniques. Knows & understands construction documents, plans and specifications. Knows & understands construction practices, methods, materials, applications and standards. Develops project solicitation documents. Develops project contracts. **Communication:** Possesses the understanding and ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. Possesses the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other departments, agencies, elected and appointed officials and the general public. Develops and monitors the programs project budgets. Assumes project responsibility for administering the activities and operations for all CP contracts. Provides administrative support to the Contracting Officer. Provides support, coordination and administration to the Technical Services Division on all open Covenant Section 702 Capital Improvement Program funding. Provides required leadership in all phases of assigned projects. Coordinates project preplanning activities. **Critical Thinking:** Assists in the development of the Capital Improvement Infrastructure Plan. **Continuous Improvement:** Assists others in understanding relevant information related to construction processes. **Managerial:** Maintains accurate and comprehensive records on all assigned projects. **Decisiveness:** Makes and shares decisions in a timely manner. Advises Contracting Officer on project issues in a timely manner. Responds quickly in emergency situations. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Any combination equivalent to graduation from college or university with a Bachelors Degree preferably in construction management, architecture, engineering, planning, business management or related field. A minimum of five (5) years experience in contract administration from the entire range of pre-award to post-award functions. The incumbent must be knowledgeable of Microsoft Office 2003 or greater particularly in Outlook, Work, Excel and Projects. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is **"EXEMPT"** is not eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV.Bl6 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I.7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: **Education and training claimed under item 25(A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma or certificate. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.**

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-087
OPENING DATE: 06/02/08
CLOSING DATE: 06/16/09

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: Program Analyst **PL - UNGRADED**
$1,461.54 B/W - $38,000.00 P/A

The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: **Office of the Governor, Saipan**
CIP Program Office

DUTIES:
Provides administrative support to the CIP Administrator and the Contracting Officer. Provides support, coordination and administration of the Covenant section 702 Capital Improvement Program funding. Develops and monitors the program's project budgets. Assists the CIP Administrator in preparation of project drawdowns. Assists the CIP Administrator in preparation of the semi-annual reports (SF269/272). Assists the CIP Administrator in the audit review process. Monitors various project activities and transactions according to the applicable Federal Grant Agreements, local procurement rules and regulations and Appropriation Acts. Assumes project responsibility for administering the activities and operations for all CIP contracts. Possesses the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. Possesses the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with grantor agencies, other departments, agencies, elected, and appointed officials and the general public. Maintains and organizes project files on a daily basis. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Any combination equivalent to graduation from college or university with an Associate's Degree in accounting, business-related fields such as administration, management or finance; or any equivalent combination of training, experience and additional education that provides the necessary knowledge, abilities and skills. A minimum of eight (8) years of general experience in program administration. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is **"COVERED"** Is eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV.B16 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I.7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: **Education and training claimed under item 25(A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma or certificate. FAILURB TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATTON.**

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:

Office of Personnel Management
J.M. Building, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950

Office of Personnel Management
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952

Office of Personnel Management
Songsong Village
Rota, MP 96951

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor - Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan , MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-023

ROUTE 101 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, ROTA
FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0101(001)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Route 101 Road Improvements, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).**

The project package will be available on or after June 13, 2008 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include (insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24,2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 1595 and as further amended by Public Law 15-] 18, **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for June 30, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Secretary Office, Gualo Rai. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and conditions of the project. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on July 7, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW Technical Services Division, 2"d Floor, Oleai Center, or fax to (670) 235-6346.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW08-IFB-023**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, July 15, 2008. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply ~~no later than 2:00 p.m. loc~~al time no later than July 15, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 15, 2008, and must be received no later than July 22,2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:00 a.m. local time, July 25, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 18, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specification for Construction and Bridges on Federal Projects FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation **(DOT)**, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHW A.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the **CNMI Government.** The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/**HERMAN M. APATANG**
Director of Procurement & Supply

Zoning Board Public Hearing
Establishment of an Adult Business Overlay Zoning District and Amendment of Criteria for Siting of Adult Businesses

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking comments on a proposed regulation to establish an adult business overlay zoning district. The proposed district would cover land within 200 feet of each side of the centerline of Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Rd.) as follows: from Chalan Msgr. Guerrero north to a line extending along the center of Commonwealth Avenue (south side of Sugar King Park). If a lot or building extends beyond 200 feet from the centerline, only the part within 200 feet would be allowed to be used for an adult business.

The Board is also seeking public comment on a proposal to amend the requirements on the Saipan Zoning Law for siting adult businesses in adult business overlay zones. The proposed amendment would require new adult businesses to be located at least 500 feet from an existing adult business. The concept of the 500-foot separation is to avoid creating closely packed "red light" districts that draw crowds and traffic, and reduce property values.

Public open house to explain the proposals:
Date: Friday, June 13, 2007
Time: 2:00 pm and repeat at 6:30 pm
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Public Hearing on the proposals:
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2008
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Adult businesses could be allowed to locate in the adult business overlay zoning district after they submit applications for zoning permits and meet the requirements of Section 513 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. These requirements include: separation from sensitive locations and design of buildings and signs. The Saipan Zoning Law may be viewed and downloaded online at www.zoning.gov.mp or at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan.

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will decide whether to approve the adult business overlay zoning district and whether to recommend that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation amend the Saipan Zoning Law.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, June 20, 2008. People should send written comments via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. We prefer email. Anyone with questions about the proposal may call the Zoning Office at 670-234-9663.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask your comments on proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 and Official Zoning Maps. The proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law affect many parts of the law including: definitions of terms, exemptions and area of jurisdiction, the types of uses permitted in certain areas (zones), standards (requirements) for temporary uses and roadside merchandise stands, standards for certain uses, building design, signs and lighting, lot line adjustments, subdivisions, road standards, and editorial changes. The proposed amendments to the Official Zoning Map (rezones) are on map sheets 01, 03, 09, 13, 14, 16, 26, and 29

Public open house to explain the proposals:
Date: Friday, June 13, 2007
Time: 2:00 pm and repeat at 6:30 pm
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Public Hearing on the proposals:
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2008
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

The proposed amendments and map changes may be viewed at
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps. The Board will also decide whether to recommend any or all of the amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law for adoption by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, Thursday, June 19, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

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Request for Rezone Proposals for Adult Business Park
ZB P # 08-01

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is requesting rezone proposals for establishment of one or more adult business park zoning districts on Saipan. The result of a successful rezone proposal will be a proposed regulation designating a special zone for adult businesses. The result will not be a contract to provide any adult business service.

An adult business park zoning district is one or more lots and/or buildings that may be developed for the use of one or more adult businesses. According to the Saipan Zoning Law no new adult business, and, eventually, no old adult business, will be allowed except in an approved adult business district. The Law authorizes the Zoning Board to establish adult business park zoning districts in locations that meet certain requirements for road access, impact on health, safety, or welfare of adjacent land uses, and appropriate property management.

The Zoning Board will evaluate the rezone proposals and consider which, if any, are appropriate to include in draft regulations. (See Section 514 of the Saipan Zoning Law, available on www.zoning.gov.mp, "Zoning Law", Article 5). Once the draft regulations are prepared, they will be sent out for public review and comment. The Board's action is just the first step in the creation of an adult business park. The private sector will ordinarily be responsible for the next steps – acquiring property, permits and licenses and construction and operation.

Content of rezone proposals
Rezone proposals shall be submitted on the form "Rezone proposal for an Adult Business Park Zoning District" and be accompanied by all required attachments. The form is available in PDF format on the Zoning Board website at www.zoning.gov.mp.

We will send you a copy of the form in MS Word format if you e-mail a request to staff@zoning.gov.mp. Referenced materials may be downloaded from the Zoning Office website www.zoning.gov.mp.

Format of rezone proposals
You must submit in hard copy and electronically:
- One original and 9 copies
- On 81/2" x 11" or 11" x 17" paper; and
- One electronic file version in PDF, MS Word or MS PowerPoint format, by email to staff@zoning.gov.mp (use subject line: Adult Business Park) or delivered on cd or floppy disk to the Zoning Office.

Where and when to submit rezone proposals and questions
Address your questions, the rezone proposal itself and other correspondence to: Attn: Adult Business Park RFP.
Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan
US Mail: Zoning Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp
Proposals must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, Friday, June 20, 2008.

Evaluation of rezone proposals
The Board's principal goals for this process are:
1. Provide a clustered area where adult businesses may function.
2. Protect public health and safety.
3. Insure compatibility with nearby land uses.
4. Promote an attractive area that enhances property values.

Of course, the Zoning Board will not compensate a person for expenses incurred in the preparation or submission of the rezone proposal; and the Board may accept or reject a rezone proposal as it deems prudent.

Authority: PL 6 - 32 (effective June 27, 1989), the "Zoning Code of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." PL 6-32 § 1; 2 CMC § 7201 et seq. and the Saipan Zoning Law, 10 CMC § 3511, PLL 15-29, §§ 101 - 1414 and the Zoning Map. Section 514(b) of the Zoning Law empowers the Board, by regulation, to establish one or more Adult Business Park Zoning Districts.

HENRY S. HOFSCHNEIDER, Chairman

Vujacic sheds an old nickname by scoring in prime time

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sasha Vujacic used to be called "10:30" by his teammates because he was known for his lights-out shooting in the morning at practice as opposed to his lack of accuracy when it really counted, at night.

"That happened," Lakers assistant coach Jim Cleamons recalled Wednesday. "Guys always find your idiosyncrasies and bring them to light."

Cleamons said the "10:30" monicker doesn't seem to get much use anymore, because Vujacic has grown into the role of a successful shooter when the spotlight is shining.

Instead, it's "The Machine," courtesy of Lakers television play-by-play man Joel Meyers.

"He started it, the fans picked it up," Vujacic said. "It's OK. People recognize me as "The Machine" right now. I have nothing against it."

One of those people is MVP teammate Kobe Bryant, who had a ready response Tuesday night when asked about Vujacic's 20-point performance in the Lakers' 87-81 victory over the Boston Celtics in Game 3 of the NBA finals.

"A machine. Played like a machine," were Bryant's first words.

Savior might have been a better description. Bryant scored 36 points—no surprise there. But the other four Los Angeles starers combined for only 22, making just seven of their 28 shots. Vujacic came off the bench to shoot 7-for-10, including 3-for-5 from 3-point range.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Sasha Vujacic, of Slovenia, throws a pass during practice for the NBA finals at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 11, 2008. The Lakers will play Game 4 of the series against the Boston Celtics on Thursday in Los Angeles.

"He was the difference in the game," Lakers guard Derek Fisher said. "There have been stories and books written about the improbable. That's what's so great about sports. You can't predict it."

Vujacic has made significant contributions this season, but his 20-point effort was improbable because his previous career playoff high was 15 points; his regular-season career high is 22, and he entered averaging 8.1 in the postseason, having made only 40 percent of his shots.

"He's a shooter. He has a difficult role," Cleamons said. "Shooters always believe they're going to make the next shot. Shooters are always playing on emotional elevators. Shooters have to believe they're going to make their next shot no matter how many they've missed."

That's never been a problem for Vujacic.

"Never. Ever," he replied, when asked if he could remember a time when he lacked confidence. "I had to do the mental training that (coach) Phil Jackson does to his players. It took me a while. It's good."

While Bryant led the way, it was Vujacic who made the biggest shot of Game 3. The Celtics had scored four straight points to draw within two before Vujacic missed a 3-pointer. But after a Boston miss, Lamar Odom found Vujacic open in the left corner, and he fired away without hesitation. The ball went in with 1:53 remaining, the Lakers had a five-point lead, and Boston didn't pose a serious threat after that.

"It wasn't a great feeling," he said of his missed shot. "Lamar found me, and I made the shot."

Any doubts?

"Not even for a second," the 24-year-old Vujacic said. "Those are the shots I live for. Thanks to Phil Jackson, he has the confidence in me."

Vujacic, whose team trails the Celtics 2-1 entering Game 4 on Thursday night, said the Lakers never lost confidence in Game 3. No NBA team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a seven-game series.

"We knew how important yesterday's game was," he said. "Tomorrow's game is going to be very important to us. We're going from there. We're going to Boston, there's no doubt about it."

The Lakers have to win one of the next two games at Staples Center to make that a reality. Their chances seem good, since they're 9-0 in home playoff games and have won 15 straight home games since their last loss March 28.

Vujacic, a 6-foot-7, 205-pounder from Slovenia, was taken by the Lakers in the first round of the 2004 draft as the 27th overall selection after having played for Snaidero Udine of Italy's top professional league from 2001-04.

As a rookie with the Lakers, he was unimpressive, playing in only 35 games and averaging 2.9 points. He played in all 82 games in his second season, averaging 3.9 points, and raised his average to 4.3 points while playing in 73 games in his third season. He averaged 8.8 points in 72 games this season.

"I was wondering if he could ever grow facial hair," Bryant said Wednesday when asked about his first impressions of Vujacic. "I know he's developed into a big asset for us, and he has a lot of confidence. He plays hard at both ends of the floor, and that comes from all the work that he's put in. He's a gym rat, he's in there all the time. He's been a valuable asset for us all season long."

Still, Vujacic has often been a whipping boy for his teammates. But it's all in fun.

"He's a good player who's still growing," Cleamons said. "They let him know he's not full-grown yet."

Celtics' Rondo skips practice with ankle injury

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rajon Rondo side-shuffled down the floor during the Boston Celtics' off-day stretching drills Wednesday, lagging behind the teammates he usually sprints right past.

When the time came to jump, Rondo stood in place, unable to participate because of the ankle injury that left him on the bench for most of the second half during Game 3 of the NBA finals.

The speedy point guard said he has no intention of missing Game 4 against the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night, but he left open the possibility that he wouldn't be effective enough to help his team.

"Nobody in this league is 100 percent, but I'm sure I'll play," he said during the media availability period before practice at Staples Center. "There's no way I'm going to miss the game, probably. I don't want to hurt the team and go out there and not give it my all, but I think I'm sure I'll be playing tomorrow night."

Wearing a hard plastic brace on his left ankle—and, when talking to reporters, no shoes—Rondo described the injury as a bone bruise. He felt less pain after treatment with ice and a night of rest, and he expects to feel even better with another 24 hours to heal.

"I can walk on it," Rondo said, adding that he wouldn't be able to wear that brace during the game. "I made a walk around the hotel and I was limping a little bit, but the farther I walked the better it got."

On Wednesday, Rondo was on the floor for the stretching drills, but he took part in about half of them and appeared to be going at about half-speed. The rest of practice was closed to the media, and the Celtics were not planning a shootaround on Thursday morning.

"He's very important to this team. He's a big reason why we win," forward Kevin Garnett said. "He's the anchor of our defense. He's totally matured over the course of the year."

Rondo rolled his ankle early in the third quarter on Tuesday night, when the Lakers won 87-81 to trim their deficit in the best-of-seven series to 2-1. He returned in the fourth quarter for 3 1/2 minutes and made a basket to give him eight points in the game.

"It felt pretty good, but I was just running off adrenaline," he said. "After the game it swelled up a little bit, it got a little tight. But other than that, like I said, it's just time. It's going to be all right."

In Game 3, the Celtics made up for Rondo's absence with backups Eddie House and Sam Cassell. Coach Doc Rivers said he would also consider using Tony Allen at point guard because of his success covering Kobe Bryant during the regular season.

"It's the finals. I don't want to hold anything back," Rondo said. "If I'm going out there at 50 percent, I don't want to hurt the team. Eddie and Sam do a great job of running the team, so I'll let them have it."

All of the possibilities offer something.

Cassell is a fearless shooter who has won championships before. House had the long-range shooting touch that would keep the Lakers from double-teaming Garnett in the lane. Allen is a tough defender.

"Everybody brings something different to the table," Garnett said. "We shouldn't miss a beat."

But none of them have Rondo's speed.

"And he's the one pure point guard on our team that has the ability to make plays, and that's what we would lose," Rivers said. "I'm concerned because if Rondo can play but he doesn't have speed, then that's a concern."

If he can't play, Rivers said, he'll find some other combination.

"I don't worry about guys (being) out; I just don't. That's why we play them all," he said. "If a guy is out, somebody else has to step up and play. That's what we've done all year.

"Having said that, Rondo's value is extremely important to the team. We understand that. He gives us speed; he gives us great point guard play. He has the ability to pressure the ball. But if he can play, it's going to be great. But if he can't, we're not going to use that as a crutch, I can tell you that."

Bulls introduce Del Negro as new coach

CHICAGO (AP)—Vinny Del Negro realizes he won't win over fans until he wins a few games, so the Chicago Bulls' new coach understands the skepticism given his track record. After all, there is none.

The Bulls introduced Del Negro at a news conference Wednesday, ending a seven-week search in which they tried to lure Mike D'Antoni from the Phoenix Suns and discussed a return engagement with Doug Collins. Instead, they wound up with someone who has never coached and a long line of skeptics in Chicago.

"I think that's fair," said Del Negro, the Phoenix Suns assistant general manager this season. "I haven't coached before. ... Winning builds confidence and there's a young team here that needs a confidence boost, I think. I'm not a magician. I just can't create things all of a sudden. It's going to be a daily process. Those are fair questions, I don't have a problem with that."

Del Negro may have been the third choice, but he convinced the Bulls he's the man to help turn around one of the league's biggest disappointments. The Bulls went from 49 wins to 49 losses and missed the playoffs after making the second round in 2007, leading to coach Scott Skiles' firing in December and interim coach Jim Boylan's dismissal on April 17. Their outlook improved when they struck gold in the lottery and landed the No. 1 pick in this month's draft.

Now they hope they found a gem in Del Negro, who spent the past two years in the Suns' front office after a three-year stint as a radio analyst. He got promoted to assistant general manager from director of player personnel and was interested in replacing D'Antoni after he left for New York, but a lack of experience kept Del Negro off the list of finalists. The Suns ultimately hired Terry Porter, and Chicago wound up with Del Negro after a seven-week soap opera.

Angels down Rays 4-2 to stretch AL West lead

ANAHEIM,California (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels stretched their lead atop the American League West with a 4-2 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday.

Gary Matthews Jr. and Vladimir Guerrero homered and Maicer Izturis hit a go-ahead single for the Angels, who snapped the six-game winning streak of Rays pitcher Scott Kazmir.

Kazmir allowed three runs and three walks in 6 2-3 innings.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 3

In Boston, pitcher Bartolo Colon got the 150th victory of his career with six strong innings as Boston downed Baltimore.

Colon allowed just one run, reaching his milestone five days after his only loss of the season.

Against the Orioles, Colon was staked to a 5-0 lead after just one inning.

Colon struck out seven and walked only one. He improved to 150-96 in 311 starts.

Athletics 8, Yankees 4

In Oakland, California, the home team roughed up New York pitcher Darrell Rasner early to set up a win.

Jack Cust drove in three runs for the Athletics, including a two-run single in the six-run third inning that put the hosts in front for good.

Rasner lost his fourth straight start.

Tigers 5, White Sox 1

In Detroit, Justin Verlander pitched a four-hitter for his third career complete game, steering Detroit past Chicago.

Verlander didn't walk a batter, throwing 101 pitches in his best outing of the season.

Marcus Thames hit a three-run homer for Detroit in the second inning, giving the Tigers a 3-0 lead that set up the victory.

Twins 8, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Minnesota snapped its six-game losing streak with a victory over Cleveland.

Justin Morneau drove in three runs and Jason Kubel hit a homer for the Twins, who moved two games ahead of the Indians in the AL Central standings.

The Twins had been outscored 44-17, hit .178 with runners in scoring position, and compiled an 8.08 ERA during their six-game slide—their longest since 2003.

Mariners 2, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Raul Ibanez singled home the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning as Seattle edged Toronto.

Pitcher Felix Hernandez worked eight strong innings for the struggling Mariners, giving up only one run, walking just one and striking out eight to win his third straight start and lower his ERA to 2.91.

Rangers 11, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Missouri, David Murphy hit two home runs, including his first career grand slam, driving in a career-high five runs as Texas downed Kansas City.

The Rangers trailed 5-1 after six innings, but sent 10 men to the plate in a seven-run seventh, matching their biggest inning of the season.

Murphy leads all AL rookies with 46 RBIs and 77 hits.

Marlins 6, Phillies 2

In Miami, Dan Uggla hit a game-ending grand slam in the ninth inning to give Florida a win over Philadelphia.

With one out in the ninth and bases loaded, second baseman Uggla crunched his 19th homer of the season. It was just the second game-ending grand slam in Marlins history after Bobby Bonilla managed the feat in 1997.

Cubs 7, Braves 2

In Chicago, Ryan Dempster pitched his first complete game in almost five years to guide Chicago to a win over Atlanta.

The Cubs' win was tarnished by an injury to leadoff hitter Alfonso Soriano, who was struck by a pitch that broke his left hand, putting him out of action for an estimated six weeks.

Dempster, a closer-turned-starter, struck out 11 batters to improve to 8-0 at Wrigley Field this season.

Cardinals 10, Reds 0

In Cincinatti, St. Louis' Braden Looper pitched his first career shutout as the Cardinals routed Cincinatti.

Rick Ankiel, Jason LaRue and Ryan Ludwick all homered for the Cards, who won their fourth straight.

The Reds got only two runners into scoring position against Looper, who went nine innings for the first time in his 44 career starts.

Johnny Cueto walked eight in five innings, the most by a Reds pitcher for nine years. St. Louis had three walks and two homers in the first inning.

Brewers 10, Astros 6

In Houston, Milwaukee ended its five-game losing streak in style, hitting a season-high five home runs in beating Houston.

Corey Hart hit two homers for the Brewers, while the Astros also went deep with three solo homers.

The Astros led 3-1 before Milwaukee got back-to-back homers in the fourth to tie the game.

Mets 5, Diamondbacks 3, 13 innings

In New York, Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer with two outs in the 13th inning to give New York victory over Arizona.

The Mets overcame ended a five-game losing streak despite another blown save by Billy Wagner.

Arizona tied the game in the ninth with a three-run shot off Wagner.

Beltran lined a 1-2 pitch to right-center for the fifth game-ending homer of his career and first since 2006. Beltran also had a two-run single in the fourth.

Padres 4, Dodgers 1

In San Diego, starting pitcher Randy Wolf combined with two relievers on a five-hitter as San Diego downed Los Angeles.

Wolf had his fifth straight outing where he allowed two runs or fewer.

Rookie Edgar Gonzalez hit his first major league home run in the first inning, and Khalil Greene also hit a solo homer for the Padres, who won for the fifth time in six games.

Pirates 3, Nationals 1

In Pittsburgh, Ryan Doumit homered for the third time in two games for Pittsburgh, which downed Washington.

Catcher Doumit, also singled twice for the Pirates, hit a solo shot for his eighth homer of the season.

Ian Snell pitched into the seventh inning to earn his first win in 11 starts. He allowed only one run and struck out six.

Rockies 1, Giants 0

In Denver, Garret Atkins scored on Yorvit Torrealba's bases-loaded fly ball in the ninth inning for the only run of the game as Colorado edged San Francisco.

Atkins drew a leadoff walk and moved to third on a single. After a walk and an out, Torrealba followed with a fly ball to left field and Atkins charged for home plate. He was initially called out, but the umpire then saw that the Giants catcher had dropped the ball while making a swipe tag and ruled Atkins safe.

It was only the fifth 1-0 game in the history of batter-friendly Coors Field.

55 register for swimming ARC lessons

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tsunami SAIPAN

A total of 55 children have signed up for Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's American Red Cross swimming lessons set to start tomorrow at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan south pool.

The lessons will continue through the succeeding Saturdays of the month plus the first Saturday of the next month, July 5, at the Garapan landmark.

Two Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose in the pool at the Pacific Islands Club Sunday. The fledgling club will host American Red Cross swimming lessons starting tomorrow at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All lessons will be from 10am to 11am.

According to the club's head coach, Hiro Kimura, swimmers and coaches of Tsunami Saipan will conduct the American Red Cross swim lessons, namely Stan Good, Bobby Winkfield, Mike Villagomez, Shin and Kensuke Kimura, Daniel Villegas, Daniel Camacho, Thea Minor, Amanda Johnson, among others.

Registration will be held at the Fiesta Resort south pool area from 9:15am to 9:45am tomorrow.

Enrollment is limited to 55 participants and children must be at least five years old. Tsunami Saipan is reminding parents not to register their toddlers.

Cost to participate is $25 with the succeeding participant from the same family charged $20 each. American Red Cross certificates will be issued after the conclusion of the monthlong swimming lessons.

Last April, Tsunami Saipan held its first American Red Cross swim lessons of the year with 69 participants "graduating" and awarded their "certifications."

Good said the swim lessons are an important step in improving the water safety awareness of people on Saipan.

Fil-Taga June Ace at COP this Sunday

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its June Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, June 15, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville.

According to tournament director Rey Ferraz, show time is set at 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30am.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Over 100 expected for Tinian Triathlon

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

More than 100 participants are expected to take part in tomorrow's 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority's Ed Diaz, the island's signature sporting event has already lured more than 100 athletes from the Land of the Rising Sun, courtesy of the KFC Triathlon Club of Japan.

Aside from the athletes from Japan, Diaz also expects between 10 and 15 local triathletes to take part in the annual event, which unfolds tomorrow morning off scenic Taga Beach.

The vigorous and challenging triathlon course starts with a 1.5-kilometer swim and transitions into an extreme 40-km biking experience. The event finishes with a brisk 10-km run.

The weekend sporting extravaganza also returns with the always spectacular Reef Swim this year and like previous editions, organizers will be offering two types of categories—type A which is a 1.5-km swim and type B which is a 3-km swim.

Aside from members of the KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, representatives from Kaike Triathlon have also signed up for the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim.

Registration fee for the solo triathlon is $80, while for the team each member needs to pay $60, which is the same amount for the reef swim.

The entrance fee includes an event T-shirt, swim cap, and dinner for the awards party at 6pm at the Taga Beach. The final day of registration will be today, June 13, from 5pm to 8pm at the poolside of the Tinian Dynasty.

A pre-race briefing will also be held today, June 13, from 6pm to 7pm also at the poolside.

Those interested can pick up an application form at the MVA office from 8am to 5pm. Participants will receive a T-shirt along with an invitation to the awards banquet.

The annual triathlon is supported by the Tinian Mayor's Office, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and MVA.

SAIPAN

From Page 44

his namesake's performance from the mound, striking out six batters while giving up a lone hit and walking three.

Challenging Saipan in the finals today is Rota after the hosts beats Tinian, 15-8.

In the Senior League played at the old ballpark in Songsong Village, Saipan Senior All-Stars opened up the district tournament with a 17-3 whipping of Rota.

Saipan scored six runs in the first, two each in the third and fourth innings, before closing out strong with four runs apiece in the fourth and fifth innings.

Anthony Rogolofoi gave up three runs against Tinian in the third when Thomas Barcinas, Gary Toves Jr., and Shane Ogo all crossed home plate.

That would be the last Rota scored in the game though as Rogolofoi combined with Juan Maratita and Joshua Jones in shutting out the hosts the rest of the way.

In the second game against Tinian, Ofero Taitano recorded the first home run of the district tournament when he victimized Dalwin Cepeda with an inside-the-park homer.

Taitano's round-tripper was part of Saipan's six-run second after the powerhouse team tucked in seven in the first inning. Saipan added two more runs in the third to make it 14-0 and officials had no choice but to call the game via mercy run rule after the fifth.

Juan Iguel and Nokki Saralu pitched five shutout innings for Saipan with the former taking the win.

Saipan's opponent in the Senior League finals is undecided as the game between Rota and Tinian was called off due to darkness with Rota leading on the top of the seventh, 14-5.

The CNMI Major League District Championship between Saipan and Rota will be played beginning at 11am today.

The Senior League finals, meanwhile, will be held on Saturday 10am.

KISS

From Page 44

of the tournament Wednesday, Spike'A'Sauras beat MHS Okies (11-6, 11-3, 11-6), MHS Okies defeated Tsunami (11-0, 11-2, 11-5), Fatingali took out Spiked Punch (11-4, 11-8, 11-8), and Angan came back against Tsunami (9-11, 11-6, 11-1).

The playoffs of the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League took place last night with No. 1 Kiss My Pass taking on No, 8 Herbalizers (6-7 win-loss record), No. 2 Fatingali (12-2) squaring off against No. 7 MHS Okies (7-7), No. 3 15 of Fame (11-2) dueling against No. 6 MHS Peers (8-6), and No. 4 Angan (11-4) opposite No. 5 Tsunami (8-6).

The win-loss standings of other participating teams are Spike'A'Sauras (6-7), Snap Crackle Pop (5-9), Spiked Punch (4-10), MHS Young Gunz (4-10), 670 Boom Boom (3-9), Gigi (3-11), and Brabu (2-12).

In related news, PIC will host the 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend on June 14 and 15 at the San Antonio landmark resort's sand courts.

At stake will be prizes for the top teams in the men and women's doubles as well as the winner of the co-ed four-person competition.

The doubles event will be played on Saturday, while co-ed competition starts on Sunday.

The co-ed competition requires a female and a 17-and-under player on court all the time.

Doubles teams would have to pay a $25 entrance fee, while $15 will be assessed each player for the co-ed competition with a maximum of five players per team.

Members of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association get a five percent discount, while players under 17 years old will have a discount of 10 percent.

Entries must be submitted before 6pm on June 13.

BOG

From Page 44

James Villacrusis paced BoG with 27 points, while Charlie Peters and Randy Pelisaman added 13 apiece in the win.

Elias "Junior" Saralu scored game-high 33 points for DPS, including 16 in their fourth-quarter uprising.

The win boosted BoG's record to 4-1, while DPS is still searching for its first win in three games.

Last Monday, BoG relied on a rare 3-pointer by James Lee to beat Department of Corrections, 93-91, while Department of Community and Cultural Affairs rallied back from a 21-point deficit to nip Autonomous, 95-94.

First Game

Legislature 96 – Punzalan 24, R. Duenas 22, E. Duenas 20, Lizama 14, Sanchez 10, Guinto 6, Cabrera 5, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Tinian 93 – Borja 25, Hocog 20, Villagomez 18, Santos 15, Stole 10, Morgan 6.

Scoring by quarters: 23-16, 41-44, 70-67, 96-93.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

Second Game

BoG Express 90 – Villacrusis 27, Peters 13, Pelisamen 13, G. Palacios 12, Taisacan 10, D. Palacios 7, Phillip 4, Agulto 2, Imperial 2.

DPS 88 – Saralu 33, Ito 17, Tawanpiy 13, Kaipat 8, Kaku 8, Warfield 2, Regis 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-18, 43-35, 68-53, 90-88.

Referees: Michael White and Noel Delos Santos.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	41	27	.603	–
Tampa Bay	38	28	.576	2
Toronto	34	34	.500	7
New York	33	33	.500	7
Baltimore	32	32	.500	7

Central Division

Chicago	37	28	.569	–
Minnesota	32	34	.485	5 1/2
Cleveland	30	36	.455	7 1/2
Detroit	28	37	.431	9
Kansas City	25	41	.379	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	41	26	.612	–
Oakland	35	30	.538	5
Texas	34	33	.507	7
Seattle	24	42	.364	16 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	39	28	.582	–
Florida	36	29	.554	2
Atlanta	32	34	.485	6 1/2
New York	31	33	.484	6 1/2
Washington	26	41	.388	13

Central Division

Chicago	42	24	.636	–
St. Louis	40	27	.597	2 1/2
Milwaukee	34	31	.523	7 1/2
Houston	33	33	.500	9
Pittsburgh	32	34	.485	10
Cincinnati	31	36	.463	11 1/2

West Division

Arizona	35	31	.530	–
Los Angeles	31	34	.477	3 1/2
San Francisco	29	37	.439	6
San Diego	29	38	.433	6 1/2
Colorado	26	39	.400	8 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Seattle 2, Toronto 1
L.A. Angels 4, Tampa Bay 2
Boston 6, Baltimore 3
Minnesota 8, Cleveland 5
Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 1
Texas 11, Kansas City 5
Oakland 8, N.Y. Yankees 4
Pittsburgh 3, Washington 1
N.Y. Mets 5, Arizona 3, 13 innings
Florida 6, Philadelphia 2
St. Louis 10, Cincinnati 0
Chicago Cubs 7, Atlanta 2
Milwaukee 10, Houston 6
Colorado 1, San Francisco 0
San Diego 4, L.A. Dodgers 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Govt Basketball Standings

PTI	1	0
BOG	4	1
DCCA	3	1
DOC	3	1
Autonomous	2	1
Tinian	2	2
NMC	1	1
Aguaguat	1	1
Legislature	1	3
CPA	0	1
DPS	0	3
DPW	0	3

NMIVA Beach Volleyball Standings

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Kiss My Pass	12	1	305	227	33
15 of Fame	11	2	403	205	33
Fatingali	11	2	286	229	31
Angan	10	3	341	269	24
Tsunami	8	4	298	250	21
MHS Peers	8	5	284	287	19
Herbalizers	6	7	344	329	20
MHS Okies	6	7	336	328	18
Spike'A'Sauras	5	7	260	308	13
Snap Crackle Pop	5	9	340	361	17
Spiked Punch	4	9	261	236	16
MHS Young Gunz	4	10	407	398	14
670 Boom Boom	3	9	197	315	14
Gigi	3	11	219	313	8
Brabu	2	12	252	415	10

PANGELINAN

From Page 44

runner-up $300, and third place $200. Class B's top bowler, meanwhile, pockets $250, second place $200, and third place $150. The winner of Class C, for his or her part, gets $150, second place $100, and third place $50.

Aside from the PBA Classified Tournament, the bowling association will host the Bowler of the Year Tournament on July 20 also at the San Jose bowling venue.

Team 8-ball may play twice a week

Photos and Text By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

If coordinator Charlotte Tenepere has her way, the 2008 Summer/Fall Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League will play twice a week—Tuesday and Friday.

Tenepere made this suggestion while serving as emcee of last Sunday's 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League awards banquet held at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

She said expanding to a twice-a-week format makes a lot of sense since a number of teams played each other only once last season. Tenepere added that aside from the current 16 teams, three more are expected to join this coming season—Primo's Sports Bar, Pirates Sports Bar, and come-backing Bud's Bar.

Krystal SaipanCell Hustlers went home with the most hardware during the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League after winning 78.1 percent of its matches, en route to compiling an 82-23 win-loss mark in 105 total games.

A far second was Jonny's Destroyers after it went 71-34 for a winning percentage of 67.6. Third place went to Porky's Extremists and Wild Wild West with both teams finishing with identical 69-36 records.

Porky's Wild Hogs and Coral Reef Shark Attack completed the Top 6 with their 63-43 marks.

USSP Fotten Palau (60-45), Len's 5 Bad Boyz (55-50), Mr. Wonderful Shooters (51-54), Godfathers Magas (48-57), Perfect Spotter (47-58), USSP Wat-Ever (45-60), Wild Bill's Snipers (40-65), Coral Reef Barracuda (29-76), Len's 5 Amigos (29-76), and VFW Warriors (19-86) make up the rest of teams in the 2008 winter/spring season of the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

In the Budweiser Cup, Hustlers capped their season with a 4-2 win over upset-conscious Godfather's Magas.

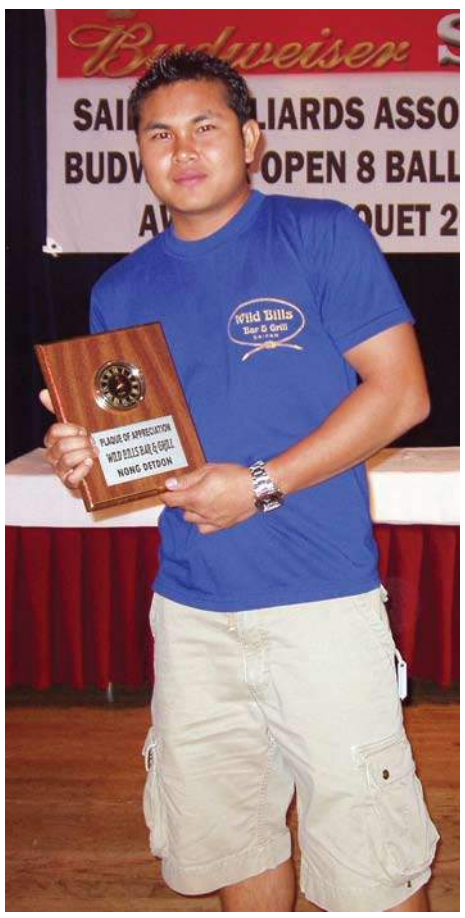
The sportsmanship award, meanwhile, was handed to VFW Warriors with Wild Bill's Nong Detdon taking home the sponsor's plaque.

Krystal SaipanCell Hustlers players Jerry Soriano, Senen Pangilinan, Rowell Mariano, Joey Lucido, Erwin Gomez, and Ryan Sanciangco pose with their trophies during the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League awards banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club. Also in photo are sponsors Serge Tibudan of Krystal Perfect Spot and James Lee of SaipanCell Communicaitons.

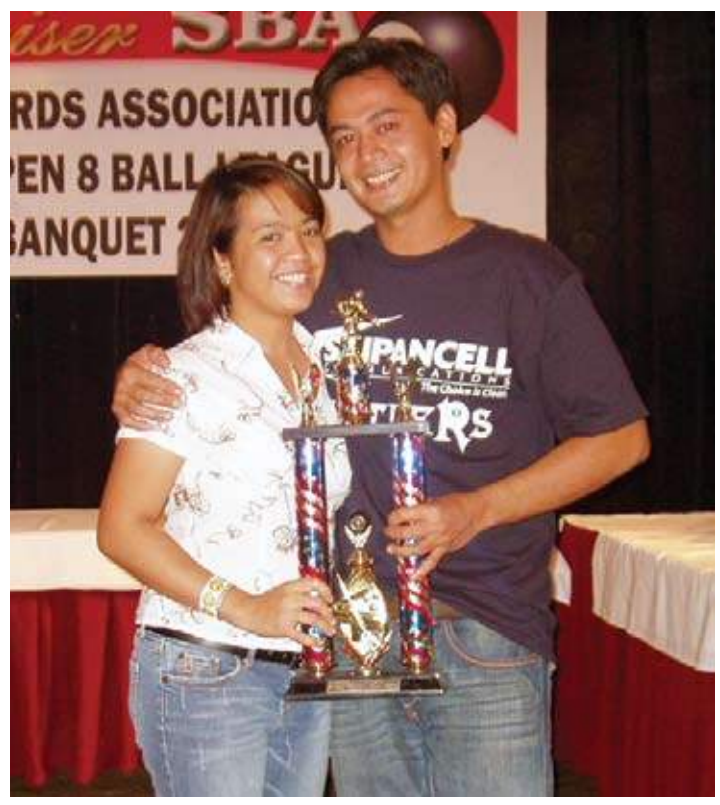
Porky's Wild Hogs finished fifth place in the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

Third place Wild Wild West pose with their hardware during the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League awards banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

Porky's Extremists show off their fourth place trophy during the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League awards banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.



Wild Wild West's Nong Detdon collects the Sponsor's Plaque during the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League awards banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.



Above center, Jonny's Destroyers pose with their second place trophy during the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League awards banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

Above, the 2008 Winter/Spring Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League MVP Erwin Gomez poses with girlfriend Lisa Marcelo during league's awards banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

Left, Krystal SaipanCell Hustlers players show off their "champion" T-shirts especially made for them by sponsor SaipanCell Communications.

Team 8-ball may play twice a week

If coordinator Charlotte Tenepere has her way, the 2008 Summer/Fall Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League will play twice a week—Tuesday and Friday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Vujacic sheds an old nickname by scoring in prime time

Sasha Vujacic used to be called "10:30" by his teammates because he was known for his lights-out shooting in the morning at practice as opposed to his lack of accuracy when it really counted, at night.

40

Saipan teams advance to championship

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan's Major and Senior All-Star teams advanced to the finals of their respective district tournaments after thoroughly beating their counterparts from Rota and Tinian yesterday.

Playing at the Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo, the Saipan Major All-Stars drubbed Tinian in the first game, 14-2, and held Rota to a run in a 12-1 victory in the second. Both matches ended via the 10-run mercy rule.

In the opener, Saipan starting pitcher A.J. Lizama was rattled early by Tinian as Brad Borja and Steven Sablan gave the latter a 2-0 lead.

But Saipan quickly retaliated as the island's batters pelted Tinian's starter with hits that resulted in six home plate crossings to give the powerhouse team a 6-2 advantage.

Lizama, for his part, settled down after the shaky start pitching in no relief and recording seven strikeouts while giving up four hits and being assessed an error.

Saipan then cut the game short with eight more runs in the third before Lizama finished off Tinian's batters 1-2-3 in the top of the fifth.

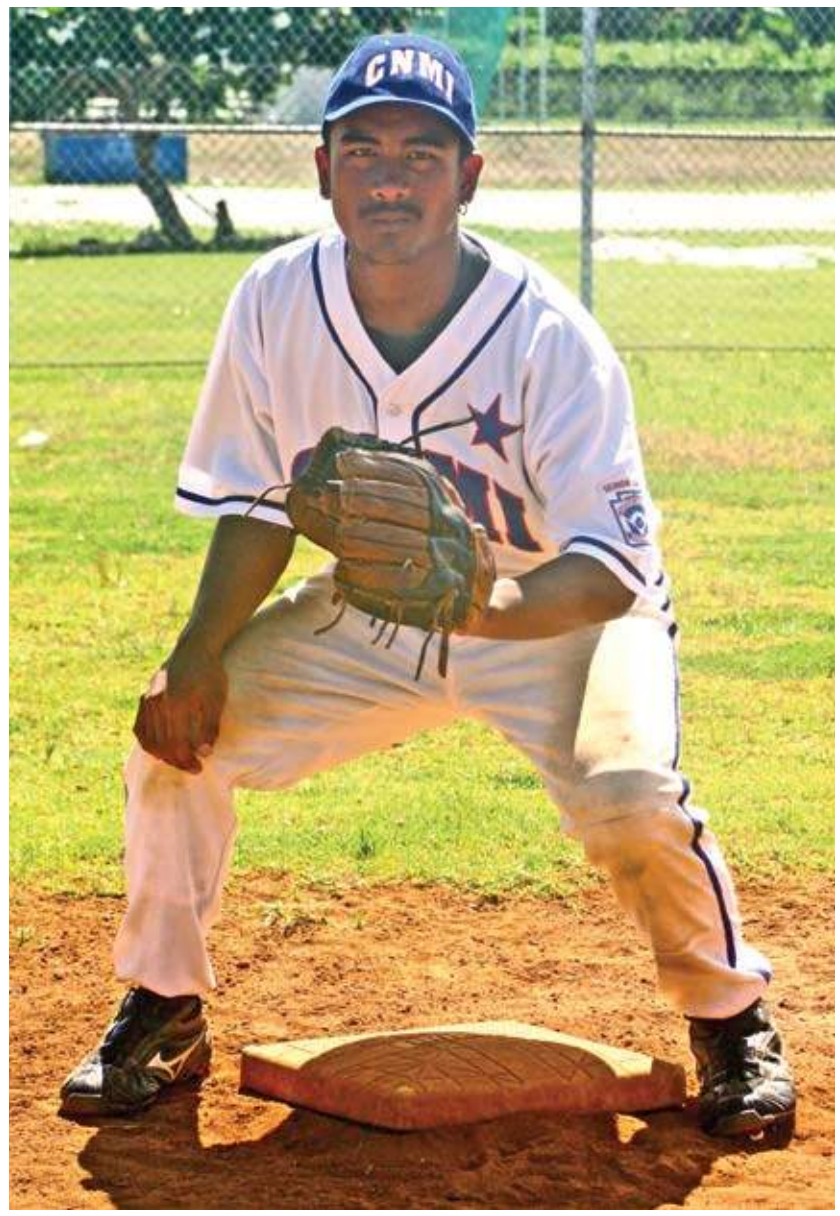
Lizama also did some heavy lifting from plate, contributing two runs after going 2-for-2 as well as adding two RBIs.

In the second game against Rota, Saipan drove in six runs in the fourth inning after scoring the same number in the first three to bludgeon the hosts, 12-1.

Jun Rabauliman led Saipan in the rout, going 3-for-3 with two hits and three RBIs.

Jeremy Lizama, meanwhile, matched

See SAIPAN on Page 42



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan Senior All-Star Ofero Taitano, seen here in a file photo, recorded the first home run of the 2008 CNMI Senior District Tournament after hitting a round-tripper off starter Dalwin Cepeda in the second inning in Saipan's 14-0 shutout of Tinian.

Kiss My Pass with flying colors

MARK RABAGO

Kiss My Pass players pose as the playoffs of the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League kicked off yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kiss My Pass won the pennant of the 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League after finishing the regular season with a 13-1 win-loss record, its only setback exacted by runner-up Fatingali exactly a month ago from today.

The team, skippered by Ken Tanzawa, swept Angan in its final regular season game Wednesday night at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Kiss My Pass routed Angan in the first set, 11-4, before encountering stiffer resistance from their opponents in the final two sets. It took the second 11-8 to win the game and completed the sweep by taking the third in the same score.

Aside from Tanzawa other members of the pennant champions are Apple Samson, Charles Johnson, Amanda Puleo, J.R. Gechig, Allan Webber, and Ed Cho.

Fatingali beat Kiss My Pass, 11-6, 12-10, 11-4, last May 13.

In other matches in the final regular season

See KISS on Page 42

BoG and Legislature in close victories

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Continuing on the week's theme of cardiac games, Legislature and Bank of Guam Express nosed out Tinian and Department of Public Safety in Wednesday night's action in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, the boys from Capital Hill pounced on an undermanned Tinian Bombers team, 96-93.

Legislature led early and took a 23-16 spread into the second half only to watch Tinian roar back and enter halftime with a 44-41 advantage.

The seesaw battle carried over into the second half with Legislature taking back the driver's seat, 70-67, after three full quarters of play.

Legislature, however, wore down Tinian in the payoff period as they nursed their lead until the final seconds for the three-point victory.

MARK RABAGO

Bank of Guam Express point guard Gus Palacios goes up for a layup against Department of Public Safety in Wednesday night's action in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was the first in four games for Legislature, while the loss evened Tinian's record to 2-2.

Joel Punzalan paced Legislature with 24 points, while pint-sized Ray Duenas and his son, Ernest, added 22 and 20, respectively.

Ton Borja and Frank Hocog fired 25 and 20 in Tinian's losing cause.

In the second game, BoG scored its second straight victory but only after surviving a furious comeback by DPS, 90-88.

After leading 21-18 in the first minutes of the ballgame, BoG buried a lackadaisical DPS five with an avalanche of points in the second to open up a 43-35 advantage into intermission.

It would go from bad to worse for DPS in the third, as BoG continued to hit their outside shots and score on a ton on fastbreak plays to take a 68-53 lead into the fourth and final quarter.

But DPS had other plans and in the fourth dropped a 35-22 bomb in the final 10 minutes to make the game interesting.

See BOG on Page 42

Pangelinan, two others lead in Classified

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paul Pangelinan, Allan Hernandez, and Ed Echavez topped their respective divisions in the first week of the Philippine Bowling Association Classified Tournament held last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Pangelinan

Pangelinan is leading Class A (bowlers with an average of 170 pinfalls or more) with a six-game total of 1,138, good for 189.67 per game.

Kitz Barja is 13 pins off the leader with his 1,125 total and 187.5 average. Third place is Simon Manacop who managed 1,121 pinfalls for a 186.83 average.

Richard Leong (1,117 pinfalls), Jon Eparwa (1,050), Percy Omechalang (1,049), Raul Dumapit (1,028), Lito Teodoro (1,012), and Orlie Ebuen (952) make up the rest of the players in Class A.

Hernandez, for his part, finished first in Class B after knocking down 1,084 pinfalls to average 180.67. He is followed by Eric Rabang (1,071), Ferdee Generoso (1,067), Yho Villavicencio (1,031), and Roger Vales (1,023).

Class B are for bowlers who average between 155 and 169.

Bragging rights for Class C (154 and below) currently belong to Echavez after he came away with 1,015 pinfalls (169.19) at the Oleai bowling venue also last Sunday.

Rene Carisao is second in the division with his 996 followed by Dennis Pacheco (960), Ric Brum (949), and Jeff Garcia (934).

Competition resumes this Sunday with the six slots for the three divisions still up for grabs. The Top 6 in Class A, B, and C will figure in a stepladder finals.

The first game will have qualifiers No. 5, No. 4, and No. 3 taking on each other with the winner squaring off against qualifier No. 2, with the winner of that game challenging the division's topnotcher who will have a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.

Class A champion takes home $350,

See PANGELINAN on Page 42